

PLO rebels announce new initiative

DAMASCUS (R) — Four Syrian-backed Palestinian commando groups Wednesday agreed to launch a joint initiative aimed at solving the crisis facing the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the Palestine news agency Wafa reported. Wafa said the four groups, which form what it called the "revolutionary alliance," had forged a "national salvation" plan which would be made public next week. It gave no details. The four groups are: Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), Fatah rebels opposed the PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, the Syrian-sponsored Al Saika and the Palestine Struggle Front. Wafa said the plan was aimed at "confronting challenges and dangers facing the Palestine people and solving the PLO crisis."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تيمز: صحيفة سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية "الرأي"

U.S. blames Iran for tanker attack

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Wednesday blamed Iran for an attack on a Saudi supertanker in the Gulf and said it deplored the raids on shipping in the area. The White House reiterated President Reagan's pledge to keep the Gulf open to shipping but administration spokesmen refused to specify what would cause U.S. intervention. "We are pledged to do what is necessary," spokesman Larry Speakes said. State Department spokesman John Hughes said the administration believed Iranian planes had launched Wednesday's attack on the supertanker Yambu Pride off the Saudi coast. "The United States deplores this continued series of attacks on international shipping," he said. He declined to give the basis of the U.S. information about the attack but the United States has four sophisticated AWACS radar aircraft operating in the region since 1980.

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Volume 9 Number 2568

AMMAN, THURSDAY-FRIDAY MAY 17-18, 1984. SHABAN 16, 1404

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Sharif Zaid leaves for U.S.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lieutenant-General Sharif Zaid left for the United States Wednesday on an official visit expected to last several days. During the visit Sharif Zaid will hold talks with U.S. officials in the course of American-Jordanian periodic meetings for discussing the Kingdom's requirements of defensive weapons, according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra. Sharif Zaid was seen off by Army Chief-of-Staff Lt. Gen. Fathi Abu Taleh and his assistants.

Banks allowed to offer higher interests

AMMAN (Petra) — Commercial banks in Jordan can now raise interest rates offered on saving accounts from six to 6 1/2 per cent and on fixed deposits from eight to 8 1/2 per cent, in accordance with new regulations issued by the Central Bank of Jordan. The measures, which aim at encouraging people to save more money, have been put into force since May, a Central Bank spokesman said Wednesday.

Rajiv Gandhi backs Mideast conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Rajiv Gandhi, son of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, has called for the convening of an international conference to try to find a just and durable settlement for the Palestine problem, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra reported from New Delhi. Mr. Gandhi, who is also secretary general of the ruling Congress (I) Party, was speaking at a general conference to mark "Palestine Day" organised by the party's foreign affairs section. In a message to the conference, Mrs. Gandhi said that her country will continue to offer support for the Palestinian people and help them regain their rights.

Tunisia recalls envoy to Libya

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba has decided to recall the head of his country's diplomatic mission in Libya, a statement from the Tunisian Foreign Ministry carried by the Tunisian news agency TAP said. The move follows rising tension between Libya and Tunisia after Libya said commandos who launched an attack in the Libyan capital last week had come through Tunisian territory. Tunisia has rejected the accusation. TAP said on Monday that Libya had expelled about 50 Tunisian workers during the weekend.

Barletta elected Panama president

PANAMA CITY (R) — Panama's electoral tribunal Wednesday announced official party candidate Nicolas Ardito Barletta had won the country's first presidential elections in 16 years of military-backed rule. In an early morning television appearance two of three government-appointed judges said Mr. Barletta, 45, had beaten 82-year-old opposition leader Arnulfo Arias by 1,713 votes. The judges gave no totals.

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Envoy says Moroccan move aimed at influencing Israeli elections

Jordan, PLO deny role in Rabat invitation to Israelis

By Lamis K. Andoni and Salameh B. Ne'matt Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have denied that they had agreed to a visit by an Israeli delegation to Morocco, as a senior PLO official Wednesday called for confronting all attempts "to normalise relations between Morocco and Israel."

The semi-official daily Jordanian Arabic newspaper Sawt Al Shaab on Wednesday quoted a senior Jordanian source as saying Jordan had no relation whatsoever with the convening of a Jewish conference in Morocco and the participation by an Israeli delegation in it. The source denied Jordan made "any contacts with any quarters" on the issue.

Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO Political Department, told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview from Tunis that "neither the PLO nor Fatah (the mainstream Palestinian commando group) had any prior knowledge or contact concerning Morocco's invitation to an official Israeli delegation to attend the Jewish conference."

The Israeli daily Yediot Aharanot Tuesday quoted Moroccan Minister of State Mohammed Boucetta as saying that the Moroccan government had informed PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat about the invitation to the Israeli delegation and the Moroccan king had tacit approval from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Jordan about it.

Mr. Kaddoumi expressed surprise at "efforts to involve the PLO in the issue" and described the invitation to and presence of the Israeli delegation at the conference in Rabat as "an unprecedented step which implies dangerous consequences, including the normalisation of relations between Morocco and Israel."

ional goal of encouraging Moroccan Jews to leave Israel and to return to Morocco."

Envoy defends Morocco

In Amman on Wednesday, the Moroccan ambassador to Jordan said that by inviting the Israeli delegation to attend the conference, his country "indirectly serves the Palestinian cause."

Mr. Abdullah Laraki told the Jordan Times Morocco has invited an "influential" group of parliamentarians from the opposition in the Israeli Knesset (parliament) to "influence the results" in the forthcoming Israeli elections in July "in favour of the Palestinians and their cause."

The participation of the 35-member official Israeli delegation, led by former Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abutahera, in the bi-annual meeting of the Jewish communities in Morocco has provoked a political storm in the Arab World.

Both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have denied that they had agreed to Morocco's invitation to the Israeli delegation to Rabat, and reiterated commitment to the Palestinian cause.

In a statement issued Tuesday night by the regional leadership of Fatah in Kuwait strongly denounced the Moroccan move and called for an urgent meeting of Arab countries "to halt the dangerous downward slide of the Palestinian cause."

The opening of the Jewish conference in Rabat last Sunday coincided with the 36th anniversary of the establishment of the state of Israel, and the Fatah statement said that "the timing and convening of the conference on the 36th anniversary of the occupation of Palestine constitutes a blatant challenge to the feelings of the Palestinian people."

The statement also said that the participation of the Israeli delegation was "a dangerous violation which contradicts our national goal of encouraging Moroccan Jews to leave Israel and to return to Morocco."

occo has fought for the Arab cause in 1948 as well as side by side with Syria in 1973. "Morocco has never went back on serving the Arab cause," he said.

Israeli officials in occupied Jerusalem were quoted as saying that the official Israeli participation in the Rabat conference "appeared to signal an important development in Israeli-Arab relations."

The officials, while expressing caution, said the Israeli presence at the conference "renewed the hopes" of the emergence of a "moderate Arab bloc" led by Egypt and Morocco, willing to "talk openly" with Israel about solutions to the Middle East problems.

The Moroccan daily newspaper Al Bayane said in an editorial Wednesday that the visit did not mean Morocco had renounced its support for the "inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people" and stressed that Israel must accept the Palestinians' right to an independent state.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was quoted by the Associated Press as saying Wednesday that the invitation of the Israeli delegation to Morocco "underscored the widening acceptance of Israel in the Arab World as a fact of life."

Also in Amman, the Jordanian Professional Associations Union issued a statement Tuesday in which it denounced the holding of the Jewish conference in Rabat, and called on Arab leaders to denounce the event and to form a united stand against it.

The agency quoted Moroccan Minister of State Ahmad Alawi as proposing to the conference the setting up of an association for peace between Arabs and Jews "to promote peace in Palestine."

In response to the protests of Arab countries, Mr. Laraki told the Jordan Times that "little has been achieved" to serve the Palestinian cause through "the series of Arab summits since 1964," and that "the Arab world is now doing 'what will not make any achievement'."

The ambassador said that Mor-



ENVOYS PRESENT CREDENTIALS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday receives the credentials of the newly-appointed ambassadors to Jordan of Brazil and Denmark. Mr. Feliks Varia (left), and Mr. Niels



Tillisch respectively. The separate ceremonies were attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Jassam (to the Regent's left), Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh (to Mr. Jassam's left) and Foreign Minister Taher Al Yassri (Petra photo)

Israelis storm Palestinian camp, blow up houses and detain 150

SIDON, Lebanon (Agence) — Israeli troops stormed a Palestinian refugee camp near here Tuesday night and blew up 20 houses, killing or wounding 20 people sleeping inside, and arresting more than 150, according to security sources and eyewitnesses quoted by various news agencies Wednesday.

Residents in the camp on the edge of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut, said the Israeli occupation force blew doors off the hinges of some houses before making arrests and blowing up other houses before leaving the camp in the early morning darkness.

The residents said about 150 people were arrested, and hundreds of others fled to other parts of the camp.

Those in the camp, where more than 20,000 Palestinian refugees are registered with the United Nations as residents, reported to several levelled or damaged houses they said the Israelis had blown up.

They said the Israeli troops had surrounded the camp in tanks and armoured personnel carriers, fired flares overhead and stormed into the camp after midnight.

Two Israeli soldiers were wounded and a member of a pro-Israeli militia was killed and another wounded in two separate incidents.

in the camp. It also followed by one day a statement by an Israeli-backed militant leader that he hoped his force could "in the near future" take over "security duties" from Israeli troops in South Lebanon.

The raid by the Israelis early Wednesday set off a further demonstration by about residents of the camp later in the day. They chanted slogans supporting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and denouncing Israel.

"By our souls and our blood, we sacrifice for you, Arafat (Mr. Arafat) the crowd chanted.

Other chants were "revolution until victory" and "we were born to die fighting the enemies of God."

Most of the demonstrators were women and children, but some young men, including a few carrying burning rifles, were among them.

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idents in South Lebanon Tuesday night, Israeli military sources said, according to Reuters.

They said a militiaman of the "South Lebanon army" was killed and one wounded when commandos threw grenades and fired automatic weapons at a checkpoint near the village of Kafra, southeast of Tyre.

The Israeli soldiers were wounded by automatic fire when their patrol was ambushed near the Zaharani River south of Sidon and were flown by helicopter to hospital in Israel, a spokesman said.

Israel has been grooming the "South Lebanon army," commanded by retired Lebanese army General Antoine Lahd, to take control of the south if and when its troops withdraw.

Meanwhile, Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens and the army's chief of staff, Moshe Levy, visited the inland market town of Nabatieh at midmorning Wednesday and inspected the site where an Israeli soldier was killed last Friday by a grenade thrown by attackers. The soldier was killed while on a patrol in Nabatieh, 20 kilometres southeast of Sidon.

Mr. Arens, accompanied by Mr. Levy and several high-ranking Israeli officers, toured the town under tight security measures for 45 minutes and left to inspect other Israeli positions in the area, according to local reporters in the area.

Tension rises in Gulf as Kuwait accuses Iran of attacking tankers

BAHRAIN (R) — A Saudi Arabian tanker set ablaze in Saudi waters and a charge by Kuwait that Iran has hit its shipping in the Gulf Wednesday heightened international tension over the escalating war between Iran and Iraq. The Kuwaiti statement, the first open accusation by a Gulf country that Iran has launched attacks on merchant shipping in the Gulf, came after an emergency meeting of the Kuwaiti cabinet.

Only hours earlier, Gulf shipping sources reported the 212,000 deadweight ton supertanker Yambu Pride hit by an unidentified aircraft in a missile attack in Saudi waters, eight kilometres north of the big Saudi industrial port of Jubail.

The attack on the partially-loaded tanker, at around 10.15 a.m. (0715 GMT), was the fifth on tankers in the waterway in three days. Fire which broke out in a starboard hold was extinguished and no injuries were reported among the 30 or so crew.

The Kuwaiti statement, fol-

lowing earlier missile attacks on two Kuwaiti tankers on Sunday and Monday, said: "It has been confirmed that the planes which attacked the two tankers had taken off from an Iranian airport."

Condemning the attacks on the Kuwaiti tankers, the statement said Kuwait would seek with "friends and brothers to put an end to this flagrant violation of the navigation laws."

One of the tankers, the Umm Casbah, was hit on Sunday morning but was only slightly damaged and continued its journey to Britain after minor repairs in Bahrain. The second Kuwaiti ship, the Bahrah, was struck on Monday by a missile which left a five square metre hole in its side.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have been Iraq's major backers in the Gulf war and ministers from both countries were in close touch Wednesday with leaders of the four other member countries of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC).

The council, which also groups

Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, was formed three years ago to coordinate defence and economic policies.

On the Iranian side of the Gulf, the Iranian-owned tanker Toffah, and the Panamanian-registered tanker Esperanza 2 were hit on Sunday night apparently by Iraqi missiles.

Those attacks took place close to where marine fire fighters are still trying to put out a blaze on the Saudi tanker Al Ahmad, apparently hit by Iraqi missiles a week earlier on its way to the oil terminal at Kharg Island.

On April 25, the huge Saudi crude carrier Suma Al Yach was hit in a missile attack after leaving at Kharg.

After the two attacks on the Saudi tankers which had loaded at Kharg, Saudi Oil Minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani said Saudi Arabia might have considered stopping its tankers from leaving at Kharg.

The cabinet, formed on April 30, has not spent more than a week trying to agree on a programme while shelling of residential districts of Beirut by forces of the rival ministers has killed and wounded scores of civilians.

At least 25 civilians have been killed and 115 injured in daily shelling of east and west Beirut since the cabinet last met on Friday, bringing the toll to more than 300 dead and 200 wounded since the government was formed.

Before Wednesday's session Mr. Karumi made a sharply-worded appeal for the shelling to stop, making it clear he was addressing the Christian and Muslim warring factions in his government.

Iraqis report heavy fighting

BAGHDAD (Agence) — Iraq Wednesday reported heavy fighting with Iranian forces in the southern Gulf war front, east and north of the Iraqi port of Basra, and said 52 Iranian troops were killed.

Wednesday's Iraqi war correspondence said Iraqi helicopter gunships attacked Iranian positions east of Basra and farther north, east of the River Figris, scoring direct hits and inflicting heavy losses.

The air and artillery attacks resulted in the "destruction of two Iranian troop concentrations, three boats carrying soldiers, a 100-millimetre rocket cannon, two military vehicles, two communication dumps, and three infantry bunkers," according to the communique which reports on daily combat action.

have agreed to sit together to achieve peace and then for fighting to continue outside the meeting hall," the premier said in an interview with the newspaper As Safir.

"Otherwise, who would be all agreed to take part in this government," he asked.

Mr. Karumi said the government had only three months to live. He condemned the "peace talks" and said Syria support and Iraq's was pre-occupied with internal affairs and elections.

"It is a propitious opportunity and may be the last for ending Lebanon's ordeal," Mr. Karumi said. "Peace must be achieved and all sides must shoulder their responsibilities in this regard."

Ministers, farmers review services in Jordan Valley

SOUTH SHUNGH (Petra) — Following the services in the Jordan Valley and ways to improve agricultural production in the region were discussed here Wednesday by local residents and Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sulaiman Ayub and three other cabinet members.

At the meeting, which was also attended by the Jordan Valley, Amman City Council and local agricultural and industrial sectors, the Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sulaiman Ayub and three other cabinet members.

The ministers accompanying Mr. Ayub on the tour included Minister of Agriculture, Muhammad Bishara, Minister of Municipalities and Urban Planning, and Minister of Public Works, Rami Naim.

Arab workers suffer under Israeli rule, PLO reports

GENEVA, Switzerland (AP) — The International Labour Organisation (ILO) says the conditions of Arab workers in the territories occupied by Israel have not improved since the 1967 war.

The report, based on interviews with Arab and Israeli officials and employers by a three-person mission last month, was submitted by ILO Secretary-General Frank B. Rowland to the ILO's 101st International Conference later this year.

It says that only 10 per cent of workers employed in the territories occupied by Israel find jobs in industry, due to lack of industrial development resulting from a heavy loss of investment.

It also projects to extend water supplies and electricity, building public parks and recreational areas, and to improve the health services.

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It says that only 10 per cent of workers employed in the territories occupied by Israel find jobs in industry, due to lack of industrial development resulting from a heavy loss of investment.

While the authorities have not held a positive attitude to the report, the mission's findings are considered by critics, citing of facilities with little explanation, even the lack of an adequate banking system, the cost of transportation, manufactured goods and a high rate of unemployment.

In addition, the report added that only 10 per cent of the territories occupied by Israel find jobs in industry, due to lack of industrial development resulting from a heavy loss of investment.

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Israelis seeking Taba talks, Ali says

CAIRO (AP) — Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali said in an interview with a Cairo magazine that Israel has initiated discussions with Egypt on a lingering border dispute between the two countries.

In an interview with the weekly Al-Mussawwar, Mr. Ali was asked about reports that the secretary-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry had announced his country's willingness to re-draw the border around the Taba area during a recent visit to Washington.

"In fact we have received this from the Israelis directly," Mr. Ali said, "and there are consultations between the two countries regarding the position of the multinational (peacekeeping) force in the Taba area, as well as solving some problems at the border and its crossing points, and other bilateral problems."

The Associated Press obtained an advance copy of the weekly, which goes on sale Thursday.

Taba, a one-square kilometre patch of land on the southern fringe of Israel's Red Sea port of Eilat, was the only major territory Egypt and Israel failed to agree to when they drew up the border following their 1979 treaty. When Israel withdrew from the last of the Sinai desert in 1982, it held on to Taba, promising to settle its status in negotiations later.

But the negotiations soon de-escalated, with both sides backing their claims to sovereignty with old maps.

U.K. expresses concern over Gulf shipping attacks

LONDON (Agencies) — Britain Wednesday expressed serious concern at what it called indiscriminate attacks on neutral shipping in the Gulf, saying they appeared to have been carried out by both Iraq and Iran.

A Foreign Office statement, issued after another attack Wednesday, said Britain was consulting its nine European Community partners about the Gulf war between the two states.

The Hellenic War Risk Club of Greek Shipowners in London said it was watching the Gulf situation closely.

Shipping sources have been saying some owners may bar their tankers from the Gulf, through which a sixth of the non-Communist world's oil passes.

The attacks have already boosted spot oil prices, oil company shares and insurance premiums for vessels entering the Gulf.

The Foreign Office said: "We are seriously concerned at the recent spate of attacks on tanker traffic in the Gulf. These appear to have been mounted by both Iraq and Iran."

"Such indiscriminate attacks on the shipping of neutral coun-

tries are a serious escalation of the conflict," the British statement went on.

It added: "We renew our urgent calls to both belligerents to end the fighting as soon as possible. In the meantime, freedom of navigation in the Gulf and through the Strait of Hormuz must be respected, as the international community has repeatedly made clear."

According to a Foreign Office spokesman, no British ships were hit in the latest spate of attacks. In March a British bulk carrier, the Charming, was hit in an Iraqi attack on an Iranian convoy.

Britain maintains two warships in the Gulf area to assist its shipping as necessary.

The Foreign Office statement was made public after planes attacked a Saudi Arabian supertanker in Saudi waters of the Gulf Wednesday while Kuwait blamed Iran for air attacks on two

of its tankers in the Gulf earlier this week.

"Dangerous escalation"

U.S. State Department Spokesman John Hughes said the United States was "deeply concerned" by recent attacks on international shipping in the Gulf. He said they "represent a dangerous escalation of the Iran-Iraq war and a growing threat to freedom of navigation in the Gulf."

"We call on both belligerents to desist from such hostilities and to implement the United Nations Security Council Resolution 540, which re-affirms the right of free navigation and commerce in international waters and calls on both parties to cease attacks on economic targets," Mr. Hughes said.

He re-iterated the U.S. belief that "there can be no military resolution of the conflict between Iran and Iraq," and underscored the administration's "strong, long-standing commitment to the principle of freedom of navigation and the right of innocent passage through the straits."



Iran's ex-president to move to Versailles

PARIS (AP) — Former Iranian President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, living in France since fleeing Iran July 29, 1981, is moving to the city of Versailles following a falling out with Massoud Rajavi, exiled leader of leftist Iranian opposition Mujahadeen guerrillas, reliable Iranian exile sources said Tuesday.

Mr. Bani-Sadr and Mr. Rajavi fled Iran together in a commandeered Iranian Air Force jet and quickly set up a National Council of Resistance at the heavily guarded exile headquarters owned by one of Rajavi's brothers, a heart surgeon, served as home and office for both men, their families and dozens of supporters.

Mr. Rajavi, whose wife was killed during an anti-guerrilla operation in Iran, later married one of Bani-Sadr's daughters.

Earlier this year, the National Council of Resistance announced

that "collaboration is no longer possible" between the two men. Sources later said the two had quarrelled over what attitude to take toward Iraq.

Mr. Bani-Sadr had been in charge of Iran's war effort in the early months following the Iraqi invasion in September 1980. But he soon ran afoul of Iran's ruling fundamentalist clergy, went into hiding and eventually fled to France.

Although Iranian sources said both men were getting along well earlier this spring, other sources later said it was only a matter of time before the soft-spoken, scholarly Bani-Sadr and the intense young guerrilla leader split over policy.

Mr. Bani-Sadr was reportedly travelling in Switzerland Tuesday, and the exact location of his new home was not learned. Both Mr. Bani-Sadr and Mr. Rajavi are under death sentence in Iran.

Tunisian aide rejects treason charge

PARIS (R) — Disgraced former Tunisian Interior Minister Driss Guiga, in a letter published Tuesday, accused Prime Minister Mohammed Mzali of making him a scapegoat for the crisis that hit Tunisia in January when bread prices doubled overnight.

In the letter to President Habib Bourguiba published in the French newspaper Le Monde, he also charged that Mr. Mzali was not telling Mr. Bourguiba the truth about what was happening in Tunisia.

Official figures put the death toll in riots that followed the price rises at 89.

Mr. Guiga, who lives in London, faces trial on a charge of high

treason after an official inquiry found that he exploited the riots to further his political ambitions.

Declaring that he had been showered with "incredible calumnies" and that the proof advanced for the serious accusations against him was flimsy, Mr. Guiga said:

"Can my wrong have been to have given you a true evaluation of the gravity of the situation when the prime minister was doing his utmost to minimise it. More than anyone, I turned to you to prevent the deterioration of this situation that I am now being accused of wanting to encourage."

In the letter, Mr. Guiga told the

president he believed Tunisia was still in a state of serious crisis.

"The situation remains potentially explosive and I do not get the impression the prime minister is keeping you properly informed about the reality of events in our country," he said.

"As a shrewd politician concerned for his career, he needed a scapegoat. One can understand that. But I refuse to adopt that role and appeal to you to stop the course that has been undertaken which does no good to our country or its government."

Mr. Guiga has long been seen as a rival to Mr. Mzali to succeed the 80-year-old president.

Morocco cuts military spending

RABAT (R) — Morocco's spending on military equipment this year has been cut 16 per cent to save about \$17 million, according to a revamped 1984 austerity budget published Wednesday.

The cut in the defence administration's budget for equipment is the largest in a series designed to reduce government spending by 71.3 million dirhams (\$81 million). Total defence spending in-

cluding pay for the armed forces and the Gendarmerie (paramilitary police) was first budgeted at 4.2 billion dirhams (\$487 million) but the equipment cut reduces this by 3.5 per cent.

The military budget is spent mainly in the Western Sahara where for over eight years Polisario guerrillas have been fighting Morocco for independence of the desert territory.

Morocco recently said it had completed fortified lines to seal off the Algerian border and shop guerrilla incursions. Field officers say the Polisario is now looked out of the area.

Morocco's overall budget was revamped as an austerity measure following a financial crisis last year when its foreign debt estimated at over \$11 billion was rescheduled.

Turkish-Cypriots open for peace talks

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish-Cypriot Leader Rauf Denktaş said the Turkish Cypriots are prepared to hold peace talks with the Greek Cypriots, but not on the basis of United Nations demands for a retraction of Turkish-Cypriot independence.

He was speaking to reporters on his return late Tuesday night from New York, where he attended a United Nations Security Council

debate on Cyprus.

The council voted for the second time since the Turkish Cypriots declared independence last November to demand a retraction of the move and condemned steps taken by Mr. Denktaş to consolidate the state through a constitution and elections.

"We shall, as we have all along maintained, continue to say that we are for the continuation of inter-

communal talks... provided they are not held in the shadow of the U.N. Security Council resolutions," Mr. Denktaş said.

He said talks between the two sides, broken off a year ago, could only be resumed within the framework of agreements for a federal arrangement reached in talks he held with Greek-Cypriot leaders in 1977 and 1979.

Rabin: Army can be withdrawn in 6 months

TEL AVIV (AP) — A labour government could pull the Israeli army out of Lebanon within six months of taking office, said Yitzhak Rabin, the party's candidate for defence minister.

Mr. Rabin, who was prime minister from 1974 to 1977, was quoted Wednesday in the Jerusalem Post as saying that while no government could guarantee that "no Katyushas will fall on the Golan," Labour would be able to maintain the country's security.

Public opinion surveys indicate that Labour is favoured to win the July 23 elections, unseating the

incumbent Likud government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Israel's declared aim when it invaded Lebanon in June 1982 was to smash the Palestinian commando groups who were attacking Israel's northern border settlements from South Lebanon with Soviet-made Katyusha rockets.

The Shamir government has often stated that it wants to pull Israeli troops out of Lebanon but without security arrangements for its border. The Israelis are training a Lebanese militia called the South Lebanon Army in the hope

that it could help prevent attacks on Israel.

Levinger ordered remanded in custody

TEL AVIV (AP) — A magistrate court judge Tuesday extended the detention of Rabbi Moshe Levinger, a leader of the Jewish settlement movement in the occupied West Bank, in connection with anti-Palestinian terrorist attacks. Israeli television reported. The extremist leader was arrested Sunday.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL
16:30 Koran
16:45 Cartoons
17:10 Children's Programme
17:45 Children's Programme
18:30 Dickens
19:30 Programme Review
19:30 Local Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:00 Arabic Play
21:30 News in Arabic
22:15 Play Continued

FOREIGN CHANNEL
17:45 French Programme
18:00 News in French
18:20 French Programme
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Room Service
21:10 Marlene
22:00 News in English
22:15 The Seagull

BBC WORLD SERVICE

6:00-6:30 Classical Record
6:30-7:00 News
7:00-7:30 World News
7:30-8:00 News Summary
8:00-8:30 News Summary
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23:30-24:00 News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings by Ali Jabri at the British Council
* A collection of paintings and other works of art by local and international artists on show at the Ali Art Gallery.
* An exhibition of paintings on silk at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

FILM

* "Die Greuze" at Goethe Institute at 8:00 p.m.
* The film festival of American musicals featuring "Top Hat" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre Library 44371
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Hussein Youth Club 66195
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 84555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century

AMMAN AIRPORT

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ARRIVALS

07:05 Cairo (MS)
09:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:15 Bucharest (RO)
09:30 Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
09:45 Jeddah (RJ)
09:45 Cairo (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran, Riyadh (SV)
11:30 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
11:30 Tripoli, Laraca (RJ)
14:40 Kuwait (RJ)
15:45 Cairo (RJ)
16:00 Laraca (RJ)
16:00 Baghdad (LA)
16:00 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
17:10 Athens (RJ)
17:15 New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:10 Amsterdam, Laraca (KLM)
18:15 Japanese jet (for 100) 163.4
19:15 Zurich, Laraca (SR)
23:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
01:05 Cairo (MS)
01:05 Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

05:10 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
05:45 Athens (RJ)
07:15 Athens (RJ)
08:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:05 Cairo (MS)
11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:30 Athens (RJ)
11:30 Cairo (RJ)
12:00 Paris, London (RJ)
12:05 Athens (RJ)
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18:00 Baghdad (LA)
19:45 Doha (RJ)
19:45 Bahrain, Muscat (RJ)
20:15 Jeddah (RJ)
20:15 Baghdad (RJ)

PRAYER TIMES

03:10 Fajr
04:30 (Sunrise) Shuruq
11:32 Duhr
15:13 'Asr
18:24 Maghreb
19:35 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

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USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193, 75111
Fire, fire, police 199
Blood bank 75121
Civil Defence 661111
Fire headquarters 22000
Police 192, 2111, 37777
Police headquarters 39141
Traffic police 56390-1
Electric Power Co. 77101-2
Municipal water service 71125-6
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 81381-32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amman 42441
Jabal Amman Maternity 42362
Malles, J. Amman 77101-3
Palestine, Shmeisani 66417-4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158
Al-Mustashir Hospital 667227-9
The Islamic, Abdali 665292
Al-Ahli, Abdali 666164
Italian, Al-Mustajir 77101-3
Al-Basrah, J. Ashrafiah 77111
Army, Marka 91611

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Nidal Maraga 771218

GENERAL

Jordan Television 73111
Radio Jordan 74111
Ministry of Tourism 42311
Hotel complaints 46411
Price complaints 661176
Telephone:
Information 12
Jordan and Middle East calls 10
Overseas calls 17
Cable or telegram 18
Repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

Upperflower price in lbs per kg
Banana 280/240
Banana (Mukammal) 240/210
Beans 300/250
Broad beans 250/220
Cabbage 140/100
Carrot 140/100
Cauliflower (white) 270/200
Chick peas 100/80
Cucumber (large) 200/150
Cucumber (small) 140/100
Eggplant (large) 150/120
Eggplant (small) 120/100
Garlic 400/350
Onion (red) 200/180
Lemon 200/180
Mallow 500/400

EMERGENCIES

Dr. Awwad Hawamdeh 777665
Salama pharmacy 36730
Khatib pharmacy 93485
J. Nair pharmacy 56726
Jerusalem pharmacy 31370
Khalid pharmacy 776653

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Onion (red) 200/180
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Mallow 500/400

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL
10:00 Koran
10:30 Cartoons
10:40 Flash Gordon
11:05 Don Quixote
11:30 Friday's Prayer
12:30 Religious Programme
13:35 Emergency
14:25 Soccer
15:20 Knight Rider
16:10 Arabic Variety Programme
17:30 Arabic Play
18:00 Roots

BBC WORLD SERVICE

6:00-6:30 Classical Record
6:30-7:00 News
7:00-7:30 World News
7:30-8:00 News Summary
8:00-8:30 News Summary
8:30-9:00 News Summary
9:00-9:30 News Summary
9:30-10:00 News Summary
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22:00-22:30 News Summary
22:30-23:00 News Summary
23:00-23:30 News Summary
23:30-24:00 News Summary

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings by Ali Jabri at the British Council
* A collection of paintings and other works

Fertiliser plant makes reported JD 5.7 m loss

AMMAN (R) — Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company (JFIC) have reported a 1983 net operating loss of JD 5.7 million.

The company's annual report, released Wednesday said technical problems at its \$420 million fertiliser complex and what it called an unprecedented drop in world fertiliser prices were the main reasons for the loss.

The complex has been operating at 60 per cent of capacity since it began production in September.

JFIC said it sold 385,000 tonnes of ammonium phosphate and phosphoric acid to 16 countries, mainly in Asia, at a value of JD 14.4 million last year.

Greater demand and higher prices for fertilisers were expected this year, it said.

The complex, built with foreign loans, has an annual output capacity of 740,000 tonnes of ammonium phosphate, one million tonnes of sulphuric acid and 400,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

Scandinavian Red Cross team meets Abu Qoura

AMMAN (J.T.) — President of the permanent committee of the International Red Cross and president of the Red Crescent Society here, Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura, Wednesday met the presidents of the Red Cross societies in Denmark, Finland and Norway currently on a five-day visit to Jordan.

The delegation came here to discuss ways of strengthening co-operation between these societies and equivalent societies in Jordan and for the exchange of services and expertise.

During his meeting with the visiting delegation, Dr. Abu Qoura explained the non-humanitarian

situations under which citizens in the occupied territories are living. He briefed the group on Israeli practices to evict Palestinian from their original homeland and the services which the Red Crescent Society offers to its branches in the occupied West Bank.

During their stay in Jordan, the five-member Scandinavian delegation will visit development projects and tourist sites.

The delegation arrived here Tuesday upon the invitation of the Red Crescent Society here. They are scheduled to leave Amman Saturday.

Sharaf opens Irbid display

IRBID (Petra) — Information Minister Laila Sharaf Wednesday opened an annual exhibition organised by community colleges in the Irbid Governorate which was held at Al Husn College of Engineering.

The minister toured the various parts of the exhibition and inspected the industrial engineering models which were prepared by engineering students.

Irbid, Al Husn, Huwara, Ghimara, Al Razi and Ibn Khaldoun

Community Colleges are taking part in the five-day exhibition.

Afterwards, the minister inaugurated a new kindergarten in Irbid which can accommodate 600 children and an exhibition in another kindergarten at an Irbid school.

Mrs. Sharaf also Wednesday opened a painting exhibition in Irbid by Alia Ammura. The paintings displayed at the exhibition depict local landscapes and scenery.

Public rally conde mns usurpation of Palestine

AMMAN (Petra) — A public rally was held at the Professional Association Complex in Amman Tuesday evening to mark the May 15 anniversary of the Zionist usurpation of Palestine.

midst of the Arab Nation and supporting it militarily, materially and morally, an enabling it to pursue its aggressive policies in the region.

The speakers, who included Mr. Akram Zu'aiter, president of the Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs, called on the Arab Nation to mobilise so as to confront the conspiracies of the Zionist enemy which threatens all Arab states.

French centre to stage new technology, education meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar on the uses of new technology in education will be held at the French Linguistic Office here between May 20 and 27, and at the Model School in Irbid between May 17 and 24.

The seminar will gather French and Jordanian teachers who will discuss many subjects such as creation and communication and the pedagogical use of audio-visual systems and especially the video-tape machine.

Emphasis will be laid on communication and how teachers can rig up their own audio-visual set.

The participants will come from all the institutions where French is taught in Jordan to include secondary schools, the French Cultural Centre, the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University.

The French Linguistic Office was set up in 1981 to provide pedagogical assistance to Jordanians teaching French. This seminar, the first of its kind to take place in Jordan, is a part of a variety of activities being staged there that include the provision of documentation about new teaching methods, training teachers and in general spreading as widely as possible the French language.

W.German academics tour university

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from the West German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) visited the University of Jordan Wednesday where they discussed German-Jordanian co-operation in education and science with university president, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Several German university professors and lecturers, who took part in a seminar on "Present Aspects of German-Jordanian Co-operation in Environmental Sciences" held in Amman Saturday, also attended the meeting.

DAAD, a non-governmental organisation representing all German universities, offers postgraduate and training courses in German universities as well as an academic exchange of university staff.

There are 70 Jordanian students currently studying in German universities whilst a total of nearly 300 Jordanian students have received DAAD grants over the past 25 years.

Co-operation agreement

DAAD already has a co-operation agreement with Yarmouk University which was signed last year. A similar exchange and co-operation agreement will be signed shortly with the University of Jordan.

During their visit to the University, DAAD representatives were briefed on the university and its activities by Dr. Majali.

Plans for a steering committee to assess priorities for future fields of research and the types of educational exchange appropriate to Jordan's needs were also discussed.

In addition, the need for mutual recognition of German and Jordanian diplomas to aid educational co-operation was mentioned for future discussion by the steering committee.

Head of the Middle East section of DAAD, Dr. Heinz Nastansky, told the Jordan Times that the proposals made by Crown Prince Hassan during the recent seminar were very positive and constructive and had led to the formation of a steering committee to assess the research and education programmes within the framework of German-Jordanian co-operation.

Mu'ta to open with 330 students, says spokesman

AMMAN (Petra) — Mu'ta University in southern Jordan will open its doors to students in the coming academic year 1984/85 and the total number of students will be 330, according to Dr. Ali Mahafza, the university's vice-president.

He told a press conference at the university's liaison office in Amman that all arrangements have been made to start academic courses in the coming year in accordance with directives passed by His Majesty King Hussein to the university's royal commission.

The registered students will be able to study: military science; administrative science; law; Arabic; English; general sciences and police science.

Each course will extend for four to five years at the end of which the successful students will be

awarded their degrees. Dr. Mahafza said.

He said that most of the graduates will be employed by the armed forces and the public security, as most of the courses are geared to the specialised training requirements of both.

Throughout the first stage of the project, the university will accept from between 1,200 to 1,400 students and this number will double in the second stage. Dr. Mahafza added.

In addition, he said, both the staff and students of the new university will work towards developing the southern regions of Jordan through various development projects and by organising training programmes for people employed there to raise their standard of expertise in a number of fields.

Talks slated on impact of agricultural modernisation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The West German Mediterranean Research Co-operation Project (MER-COOP), in conjunction with the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan, will hold a seminar on "Aspects of Agricultural Modernisation" at the faculty Saturday.

The three-day seminar and workshop will cover the social and economic impact resulting from modern agricultural practices such as mechanisation, irrigation, chemical treatment, production methods and breeding programmes as well as the social and political

trends affecting agriculture.

Representatives and experts from research institutes and universities in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Turkey, Cyprus, Italy, West Germany, the West Bank and Jordan will be attending the seminar.

General recommendations for future research projects and agricultural policy will also be discussed, focusing on the importance of agriculture in developing countries where there has been an increasing reliance on food imports.

Well body murder solved

IRBID (J.T.) — An Egyptian national who killed his roommate earlier this month and dumped the body in a water well at Huwara has been caught by police in the Irbid Governorate.

Mohammad Fawzi Shukri, 27, who is employed as a labourer in the governorate was killed by his colleague Ali Ibrahim in the house in which they lived on May 4 by being stabbed repeatedly with a sharp knife.

The police were informed about the presence of a dead body in the

well waters on May 13 by the residents of Huwara and immediately launched an investigation.

Upon discovering the victims identity, police began to interrogate his roommate, Mr. Ibrahim, who collapsed and admitted killing his victim after a dispute in which the dead man insulted him.

On the night of the murder, Mr. Ibrahim said, he waited until his friend was fast asleep and then stabbed him several times until he died.

Hassan seeks establishment of Arab neurology centre

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday called for the formation of an integrated Arab team of scientists specialised in neurological diseases to be entrusted with the job of defining priorities in the Arab World in the treatment of neurological diseases and of establishing specialised centres to treat them.

Prince Hassan, who was addressing the opening session of the third Arab conference on neurological sciences held at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman, said that Jordan would be willing to play host to such a team and would offer all possible help facilitate its work.

He said that the conference had acquired King Hussein's interest who had delegated him to open it, "thus reflecting King Hussein's interest and support for the subjects on its agenda."

Prince Hassan said that the subject of the conference is inextricably connected to many social

and other health related issues including inter-marriage among relatives, road accidents and injuries sustained both in the home and at work.

The convening of the conference in Amman and the participation of leading Arab scientists and specialists in neurology reflects Jordan's keenness to support scientific and medical research, and the scientists' endeavours to offer their services to their nation, Prince Hassan said.

At the outset of the session, Acting Health Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben made a speech in which he outlined the

importance of the conference which, he said, is designed to advance scientific and medical services.

Also addressing the session was Dr. Ashraf Al Kurdi, president of the Jordanian Neurosurgeons Association, who presented a briefing on neurological treatment in Jordan since the early 1960's.

In 1977 a special neurological unit was established at the University of Jordan Hospital to raise the standard of neurosurgery in the country, he said.

Taking part in the conference are delegates from Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait, Algeria, the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Morocco, and Jordan in addition to specialists from the United States, West Germany, Canada and Austria.

The delegates will review 44 research papers and will later tour the country's medical institutions as well as tourist and historical sites.

Aerobatic display planned to raise funds to help cerebral palsy victims

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Royal Falcons, Jordan's national aerobatics display team, will go up in the skies over Amman on Friday, May 25, for their first-ever public air show in the Kingdom, to serve a noble cause on the ground — to help children affected by cerebral palsy.

The charity show, organised by the Cerebral Palsy Foundation in co-operation with the Royal Falcons, the Royal Jordanian Air Force, and Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, will be opened by His Majesty King Hussein.

The show will include demonstrations by the Royal Falcons, the Air Force, the Special Forces Skydivers Team and medical aircraft, solo and group formation aerobatics, display of ultralight aircraft and classic aircraft and ground entertainment, officials of the foundation announced in a press conference held Wednesday.

Fakhri Bilbeisi, president of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation which was established in 1977 as a charity organisation to offer treatment and help to the increasing number of children affected by cerebral palsy in Jordan, said the proceeds of the show will help the foundation open a new centre in Irbid. The foundation has already two centres — one at the King Hussein Medical Centre in Amman and the other at Zarqa.

Mr. Bilbeisi pointed out that the air show, which will coincide with celebrations marking Jordan's Independence Day, would be "a picnic for the entire family, while helping a noble cause."

The programme's ground entertainment includes performances by the Jordanian Army Band and a "motor cycle show and many other attractions," he said.

The aerobatics display is scheduled to be held at Amman's old airport at Marka.

Maps of the exact location of

the show will be provided along with the tickets for the event which are already on sale at most of the supermarkets in Amman, and at the Marriott, the Intercontinental, and the Holiday Inn hotels, and several major bookshops in the capital.

The airshow is also intended to make people aware of the cerebral palsy illness so that they can help the victims, said Dr. Samira Baban, who is in charge of the foundation's medical services.

Also present at Wednesday's press conference were Colonel Mohammad Sheikhsani from the Royal Jordanian Air Force, Captain Paul Warsaw, director of the Royal Falcons and Captain Mufeed Salim Hassounah, leader of the aerobatic team.

Capt. Warsaw expressed pride that the aerobatic team will be staging its first-ever public show in Jordan to serve a noble cause. The Falcons have staged more than 400 air shows all over the world.

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Your IATA travel agent or Swissair will be glad to give you all further information.

Swissair Amman, c/o Near East Tourist Centre, Arcades Hotel Jordan International, P.O. Box 2518, phone 419 06, 413 01, ext. 2318.

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on Sunday afternoon

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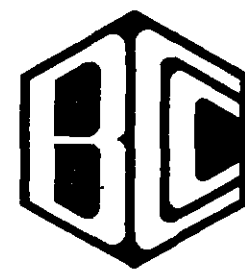
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Bank of Credit & Commerce Gibraltar Ltd., Gibraltar.
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Bank of Credit & Commerce (Botswana) Ltd., Gaborone, Botswana.
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Bank of Credit & Commerce Cameroon S.A., Yaounde, Cameroon.
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Jordan Times

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 Telegram: JORTIMES, Amman, Jordan
 The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
 Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Between controversy and split

MOROCCO'S invitation of an Israeli delegation to attend a Jewish congress in Rabat earlier this week has taken the Arab World by storm. But what has Morocco really done to incur the wrath of those of us Arabs who bitterly attacked its move to host the 35 political figures from Israel? Is it the fact that King Hassan is the current chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) whose resolutions strictly prohibit Arab-Israeli contacts so long as Israel continues to occupy Arab territories and ignore Palestinian rights? Or is it the separatist tendency of the Rabat government in dealing with the Palestinian problem outside Arab agreement and consensus? Or the ostentatious manner in which the Jewish congress was organised and publicised despite cries of protests and objections from the rest of the Arab World?

On the other hand, what kind of support, if any, is Morocco getting from Arab quarters, especially those who advocate a direct Israeli-Palestinian dialogue or mutual recognition between the two parties? Why is it that only Israel took to the praise of King Hassan's step, although even members of the Israeli delegation interpreted the Moroccan invitation merely as a calculated move by Rabat to appease the Americans?

What is really the matter with King Hassan? Is he trying to be another Sadat or what? But then was it not him who arranged for the late Egyptian president to go to Jerusalem in 1977? How did we react to his intercession then? And how different, in legality and shape, is this move on his part from his help six and a half years ago to arrange Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

It could be easily said that just like in 1977, Morocco has done something, once again, to open the door for a new split in the Arab World, at a time when the Arabs need and are struggling to close ranks on the challenges facing them. The theory that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan and the PLO gave the go-ahead for the Moroccan king to invite the Israelis does not really stand up to the truth; and all four parties have denied claims originally made in the Israeli press on this issue anyway. But if the Moroccans are telling us that what they are doing is in keeping with Arab resolutions and Palestinian aspirations, that becomes a different question altogether.

In all cases, the resultant is a controversial issue at best and divisive at worst. The Moroccan step can be most damaging if it is allowed to float unchecked.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: More democratic debate

THE EXECUTIVE and legislative authorities in Jordan Tuesday set a good example of democratic practice by openly debating issues related to domestic affairs and Jordan's security. In the six-hour session the prime minister spoke candidly about the country's issues and offered clarification about several questions of concern to the citizens.

The session clearly showed that both the deputies and the government are keen on defending the right of every citizen and maintaining law and order in the country in accordance with the provisions of the constitution. The deputies were brave and objective in putting forward proposals or asking the government for clarification of a number of issues. The government was candid and open to the proposals and offered clarification and provided answers to the questions. This was a dialogue between people and government and a show of co-operation between the two sides for the sake of serving the national goals.

This type of dialogue should be encouraged and should serve as a first step towards more democratic practices. Both sides acted with responsibility as both are keen on preserving the security and stability of Jordan and serving the country's interests.

Al Dustour: Fruitful debate

WE SUPPORT the government's endeavours to safeguard the security of the country and its citizens but we also hope the government will also maintain its drive to protect the dignity of innocent citizens and their rights to freedom and justice. The citizens should be guaranteed the right to work, movement, free expression and travel as long as they respect the law.

We are delighted to see the prime minister announcing these facts to the Lower House of Parliament and we take pride in seeing our deputies putting forward proposals and asking clarification from the government about its activities and about certain issues of concern to the public.

The parliament's Tuesday session was a demonstration of democratic practice in Jordan and a constructive step towards an open democratic development which will bolster citizens' confidence in its leadership and enhance Jordan's democratic image before the world. The deputies were objective and brave to ask the questions and the government was candid enough to offer clarifications, thus offering evidence of co-operation between the two sides to serve public interests.

Sawt Al Shaab: Security first

IN HIS statement to parliament Tuesday Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obaidat stressed that the security services of Jordan will maintain a vigilant mind on all matters and will continue to offer protection to the citizens and safeguard the country's stability and peace.

The statement, coming in response to questions and proposals put forth by parliament members, reflects the government's keenness on maintaining co-operation with the legislative body, which represents the people on all matters which concern the citizens and a democratic manner of handling public affairs. The parliament session Tuesday presented to the world a bright image of a democratic country which is striving to keep up its progress and prosperity, and whose government continues to strive to achieve prosperity for its citizens in co-operation with their representatives in parliament.

The frankness which characterised the prime minister's statement and the courageous stand of the deputies who put forth suggestions and questions, under-line the fact that the two sides have a main goal and that is to serve the public with sincerity and with objectivity.

U.S. Mideast policy: A case of self-betrayal

By John Reddaway

"I SEE and approve the better," I pursue the worse. These words of the Roman poet Vergil aptly sum up the Rake's progress of successive governments of the United States in dissipating American credibility and Arab goodwill in the Middle East. Consistently governments in Washington have perceived and acknowledged what they ought to be doing for the sake of peace. No less consistently they have failed to do it. The honourable exception is the action of President Eisenhower in 1957 when he forced Israel to withdraw from the Sinai and the Gaza Strip.

He posed the moral issue:

"Should a nation which attacks and occupies foreign territory in the face of United Nations disapproval be allowed to impose the conditions of its withdrawal? If we agree, then I fear we will have turned back the clock of international order."

There may be some critics of American conduct who would say that it is too charitable to Washington even to concede that it does "see and approve the better." Certainly there have been, from time to time, individual office-holders whose minds seem to have been closed to any consideration of better or worse that might be disadvantageous

to Israel. The present U.S. permanent representative at the United Nations seems to be one such, as were her predecessors at the time of the 1967 war and at the time of the U.N. debate on the proposition that "Zionism is a form of racism". There is something in the air of New York which often seems to bring out at the United Nations the worst in American diplomacy. Some critics of Dr. Kissinger would include him among American political figures who have proved incapable of distinguishing between right and wrong where Israel was concerned. But that depends on a subjective judgment of his motives in adopting his "step by step" diplomacy after 1973. The effect was to fritter away the best chance of peace for many years. But was it merely ill-judged or was it deliberately designed to serve Israel's ends?

In fairness an Englishman who condemns such lack of principle on the part of American politicians should acknowledge that they are but the heirs of a British politician, Arthur Balfour, who was described by his Cabinet colleague, Lord Curzon, as "the worst and most dangerous of the British foreign ministers with whom I have been brought into contact in my public life." These latter-day American "Balfours" merely echo the blind contempt for morality which Balfour himself exp-

ressed in 1919 when he asserted that:

"Zionism, be it right or wrong, good or bad, is rooted in age-long traditions, in present needs, in future hopes, of far profounder import than the desires and prejudices of the 700,000 Arabs who now inhabit that ancient land."

However, the record — so thoroughly documented in Alfred Lilienthal's "The Zionist Connection" — shows that American presidents, including Truman, and their secretaries of state often did perceive and approve — some of course more than others — the better course for America to take. Why then did they follow the worse? The reason is that, with the exception of Eisenhower in 1957, Washington has never had a foreign policy at all in regard to Israel and the Arab World — in the normal sense, that is, of a policy based on a calculation of America's own interests in the region and on any objective assessment of the geo-political issues involved. Instead, it has had a domestic policy of subservience external to Israel and its supporters in the United States; and the "policy" it has followed has been essentially no more than a reflection of this. The effect has been a pro-

gressive decline from bad to worse in the conduct of successive American administrations. If former American leaders came back to life today, they would be astounded and dismayed at the object way in which U.S. governments have failed to live up to their own promises and undertakings regarding the requirements for a just and lasting peace — return of Arab refugees, Israeli withdrawal to the 1947 partition lines, an international status for Jerusalem, an Arab state for the Palestinians, equal rights for Arabs and Jews in the Jewish state, Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories occupied in 1967, again the return of refugees, respect for Israel for the rights of civilians under military occupation and no settlement of Israelis on occupied Arab land. Nothing is more depressing in the whole sorry history of the Arab-Israeli conflict than the way in which American leaders have habituated themselves to Israel's wrongdoing and defiance — and ended up by acquiescing in it. No doubt at each point of time they meant — or sincerely thought they meant — what they said about the steps they should be taking towards a just and lasting peace. They may not consciously have decided to yield to Israel's obduracy.

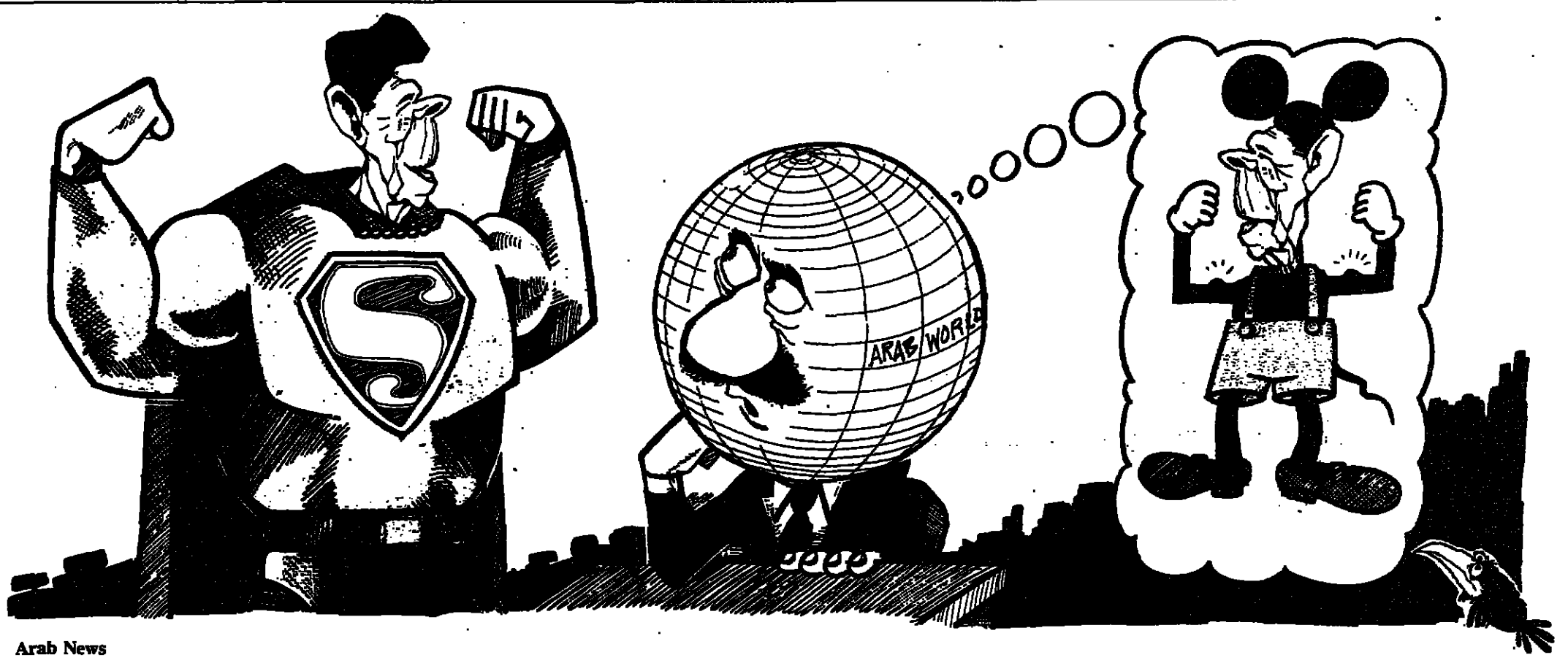
But in practice they did so, time and again, without apparently asking themselves where this progressive backsliding would lead. The latest instance of this self-inflicted loss of credibility was not really, as Mr. Shultz has suggested, the actual withdrawal of American troops from Lebanon. It was the attempt to use them in order to impose on Lebanon a settlement acceptable to Israel, after America had roundly (and rightly) condemned Israel's invasion.

Somewhat, if there is ever to be peace, it will have to be brought home to America's political leaders that, if they continue to conduct themselves as enemies of the Arab World by providing the economic, military and political support which Israel needs in order to sustain its oppression of Arab people and its usurpation of Arab land, they must expect to be treated as enemies by Arabs. More protestations of friendship towards the Arabs, false claims to be acting as an "honest broker", can no longer disguise the fact that America has indeed now lost all credibility in the Arab World. And yet, of course, America still holds the key to peace. All who wish to see a just and lasting settlement in the Middle East must hope that His Majesty King Hussein's recent statements may jolt President Reagan into asking himself the crucial question: Should not

the United States prefer its own interests to those of its client, Israel?

It is indeed high time that any friends America may still have left in the Arab World should speak out bluntly and loudly to Washington about the folly of its policy — or lack of policy — in the Middle East. That is an act of friendship, not enmity. It was an American diplomat, a former ambassador to Jordan, who told an audience of British parliamentarians, officials and journalists a few years ago: "If you want to get the president's ear in Washington, it is no good relying on any 'special relationship' or on quiet, friendly advice behind the scenes. The American political system is such that you have to shout if you want to be heard above the din of all the other voices clamouring for the president's attention — above all if you are trying to compete with the Zionist lobby."

Mr. Reddaway is a British citizen who was the administrative secretary to the government of Cyprus and the deputy commissioner-general of United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). His last assignments were as director of the Council for Arab-British Understanding and director-general of the Arab-British Centre until 1980. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.



U.S. embassy in Israel and the law

By Sally V. and Thomas Mallison

1. INTRODUCTION

Jerusalem has profound religious significance for the adherents of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The city's universal character is reflected in the U.N. General Assembly's Palestine Partition Resolution 181 of Nov. 29, 1947 which divided Palestine into the state of Israel and the Palestine Arab state, with Jerusalem established as a separate entity, termed technically the *Corpus Separatum*, which was not under the control of any nation. As a result of the 1947-48 hostilities, West Jerusalem came under Israeli control and East Jerusalem came under Jordanian control. In the hostilities of June, 1967, East Jerusalem also came under Israeli control.

II. The applicable international law

During the second world war, Nazi Germany annexed portions of occupied territory to Germany and claimed that the inhabitants were no longer entitled to the then protections of international law which were largely embodied in Hague Convention IV of 1907. The Nuremberg war crime trials uniformly held that such purported annexations were in violation of the existing law and that it was a war crime to attempt by such devices to deprive inhabitants of the protections of international law. For example, the court held in part:

So-called annexed territories in Poland were in reality nothing more than territory under belligerent occupation of the military forces of Germany.

The negotiating history of article 47 of the Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilians of 1949 demonstrates that it was carefully drafted to avoid a repetition of the Nazi violations of international law. It codified the holding of the war crimes trials and

provided in comprehensive wording that changes made, including "any annexation" by the military occupant "of the whole or part of the occupied territory," would not have legal effect and would not deprive civilians "of the benefits of the present Convention."

On Nov. 22, 1967, the U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 242, which reflected the obligations of customary international law and of the U.N. charter by emphasising the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. The resolution, however, only required withdrawal of "Israeli armed forces from the territories occupied in the recent conflict." This means that East Jerusalem, which was occupied in 1967, is occupied territory with all of its legal consequences, while Israel has received at least *de facto* recognition of its claim to West Jerusalem, as it was occupied in 1948. Another provision of Resolution 242 provided for the "right" of "every state in the area" "...to live in peace within secure and recognised boundaries." Both the Reagan peace plan of Sept. 1, 1982 and the Saudi Arabian peace plan announced by then Crown Prince Fahd on Aug. 7, 1981 recognised secure boundaries for all states in the area including the state of Israel within its pre-June 1967 boundaries subject only to minor boundary adjustments. Israel immediately announced its rejection of each peace plan.

On July 30, 1980 the Israeli Knesset adopted a law entitled Basic Law: Jerusalem Capital of Israel, which purported to annex East Jerusalem to the state of Israel. Israel, like the U.S. and each of the Arab states involved in the recurring hostilities, is a state party to the Civilians Convention and is bound by the provisions of Security Council Resolution 242. In addition, the Israeli supreme court in the "Eilon Moreh Case" (H.C.J. 390/79, Sup. Ct. Israel, Oct. 22, 1979) has declared that Israel is bound by Hague Con-

vention IV, even though not a party to that Convention, because it has become binding customary law. Therefore, the Israeli officials responsible for the attempted annexation of East Jerusalem, like the Nazi officials before them, are guilty of violations of international law which constitute war crimes according to the criteria of the world war II war crimes trials.

III. The applicable U.S. constitutional law

As treaties of the United States, both Hague Convention IV and the Civilians Convention are parts of "the supreme Law of the Land" under Article VI of the U.S. constitution. If the U.S. government were to assent to or condone Israeli violation of them, it would be unconstitutional.

In addition to its constitutional obligation to uphold the Civilians Convention, the U.S. has a specific obligation to do so under article I of this Convention. This article, which is a common article appearing in all four of the Geneva Conventions for the Protection of War Victims of 1949, provides in full:

The High Contracting Parties undertake to respect and to ensure respect for the present Convention in all circumstances.

The obligation of a state party to respect a convention is a commonplace. The new wording added at Geneva in 1949, "to ensure respect", was designed as an enforcement provision so that when one party to the convention is in violation, the others must take energetic measures to ensure that the violating party returns to a position of respect for the Convention. Unless the U.S. government take energetic measures to undo the illegal annexation of East Jerusalem, it is in violation of the applicable international law and also in violation of the supremacy clause in Article VI of the constitution.

It should be recognised also that the U.S. constitution in Article II,

Section 3, places the entire recognition power of the U.S. in the hands of the executive branch with no participation whatsoever by the Congress. Consequently, legislation to move the embassy would also be unconstitutional as in violation of the exclusive power of the executive to recognise and conduct foreign relations.

IV. Conclusions

The bill before the U.S. Congress to move the U.S. embassy from its present location in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem would, if made into law, be contrary to both international and U.S. constitutional law. In addition, it would be widely and accurately interpreted as U.S. active support of, rather than mere acquiescence in, the Israeli violation of Hague Convention IV and the Civilians Convention. This would result in the destruction of any remaining credibility which the U.S. government possesses as an effective peace-maker in the Middle East.

It is unfortunate that the American politicians who are self-appointed protectors of alleged Israeli interests have not been willing to admit that the real interest of Israelis is the same as those of other peoples in the Middle East, that, peace under law rather than a perpetuation of the conflict with increasing destruction of human and material values for all. Moving the U.S. embassy in violation of law would serve to perpetuate the conflict. The profound significance of Jerusalem provides an opportunity for it to constitute a central element in Middle East peace, but only if the basic requirements of law are enforced.

Dr. W. T. Mallison is professor of law and director of the international and comparative law programme at George Washington University, Washington D.C. Mr. S.B. Mallison is research associate in that programme. The article is reprinted from Middle East International of May 4, 1984.

Spain's biggest tycoon shattered in jail cell

By Jules Stewart

MADRID — Jose Maria Ruiz Mateos used to preside over Spain's biggest private business empire. But now as he waits in a West German prison cell for possible extradition, he is a shattered relic of the dapper Andalusian sherry tycoon of better times, according to those who have visited him.

The arrest of Mr. Ruiz Mateos, 53, in Frankfurt last month seems to have ended a self-imposed exile which began 15 months ago when Spain's Socialist government expropriated his Rumasa Corporation, which had annual sales of \$3 billion.

The Spanish government said last week it will ask West Germany to extradite Mr. Ruiz Mateos, where he faces charges of fraud, tax evasion and capital flight.

Mr. Ruiz Mateos became a man on the run after police raided his Madrid headquarters at midnight on Feb. 23, 1983, confiscating the company's books. The government said it was forced to take over his empire to avoid a banking collapse.

For Spain's most colourful rage-to-riches tycoon it meant the end of a dream — a fanatic's dangerous dream, according to Finance Minister Miguel Boyer, who ordered the expropriation.

But despite the loss of an empire whose net worth Mr. Ruiz Mateos valued at "billions of dollars" — the government put Rumasa's liabilities at \$1.6 billion at the time of the takeover — his spirit at first remained buoyant.

Initially, he set out to win back his empire, jetting from Europe to the Caribbean and the United States to round up support for his struggle with the Spanish government.

"Why doesn't the government sell off my companies?" he asked a reporter during an interview in his self-imposed exile in London.

a scoffing tone in his voice. "They're afraid to, because they know Rumasa doesn't belong to them."

From the luxurious mansion where he and his 13 children lived on the more than \$600 million the government says he smuggled out of Spain, Mr. Ruiz Mateos waged a legal battle to recover his business empire.

Mr. Ruiz Mateos was the sole owner of a company that included Spain's second-largest hotel chain, fifth-largest construction and real estate firm, eighth largest banking network, plus travel agencies, insurance companies and the sherry vineyards that gave him his start in business.

"I will get Rumasa back and this affair will be the government's political grave," he said then.

But the government saw things differently. It began to sell off Rumasa holdings, including two banks and several companies.

And the Spanish authorities pursued Mr. Ruiz Mateos on charges of fraud, tax evasion and capital flight, and tracked his movements until he was finally caught in West Germany.

Forced to leave Britain, he was arrested in Frankfurt Airport at the request of a Madrid court. Spanish officials say he was carrying a false Panamanian passport and a pistol.

His wife and lawyers say he is severely depressed and spends most of his time pacing his small cell, which he is allowed to leave for only an hour each day to exercise.

The circumstances surrounding Mr. Ruiz Mateos' arrest were in deep contrast to the lifestyle of the man who once nurtured a paternalistic dream of a 100,000-worker payroll.

Before Rumasa's expropriation, Mr. Ruiz Mateos had accumulated almost 700 companies and 60,000 employees. He had a messianic faith in the company which he had built up from small sherry exporting business.

Holmes-Coetzee title clash lacks financial support

NEW YORK (R) — Next month's heavyweight boxing title fight between American Larry Holmes and Gerrie Coetzee of South Africa was threatened with cancellation Tuesday when the chief financial backer pulled out.

A fight spokeswoman in Los Angeles told Reuters by telephone that JPD Sports, a Dallas-based television network which was promoting the fight with Caesars Palace, was withdrawing from the promotion.

But spokeswoman Coleen Hayes said a group of California businessmen were stepping into the breach and the fight would be

held as scheduled in Las Vegas on June 8.

"JPD is pulling out," Hayes said, "but the new group has deposited a letter of credit for \$16 million, and the fight will go on."

Sources said JPD Sports, which was making its first venture into boxing, had failed to come up with sufficient funds for its share of the promotion and had been forced to

step aside.

The California group was said to be headed by a man identified only as Dr. Edward McDonald.

Holmes has been guaranteed \$8 million and Coetzee \$3 million for the fight, according to sources.

If the contest takes place, Holmes would be defending his International Boxing Federation (IBF) title for the first time after relinquishing the World Boxing Council (WBC) crown he held for seven years.

Coetzee is scheduled to defend his World Boxing Association (WBA) title in the 15-round bout at a temporary stadium at Caesars Palace.

National women's tennis team to meet U.S. embassy team

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian National Women's Tennis team will challenge the American embassy team Friday 3:00 p.m. at the Jordan Tennis Federation courts.

Participants: Luma Halazan, Nancy Ensour, Salpi Etemezian, Zeina Asfour, Rasha Hamami and Carmen Saad.

The tournament will be open for the public.

Uruguayan star joins Palmeiras

SAO PAULO (R) — Victor Hugo Diogo, Uruguay's international right back has been signed by Sao Paulo's Palmeiras, club officials said Tuesday.

Noah faces tough competition

ROME (R) — French Open champion Yannick Noah twice pulled back from the brink of defeat to win his first-round match against Brazilian qualifier Julio Goes at the Italian Open tennis championship here Wednesday.

The third seed, who defends his French title in Paris in 12 days' time, finally won 5-7, 6-4, 7-6. But he had to use all his powers of concentration and skill to overcome the Brazilian, ranked 170th in the world.

At one point Noah was one set and 4-0 down, before rallying to

take six consecutive games for the second set.

In the third, he was again in trouble trailing 5-2 but levelled the score to 5-5, saving a match point on the way.

Goes seemed to lose his nerve on the crucial points. During the tie-break he smashed his racket on the ground and bent it so badly he had to kick it back into shape.

Speaking to reporters after the match he said he felt he was going to win in the first two sets but lost confidence in the third, even when he was ahead.

Liverpool, Norwich draw 1-1

LIVERPOOL, England (R) — Champions Liverpool aimed to conclude their English League soccer programme with a victory before their own fans Tuesday night — but Norwich had other ideas and held them 1-1.

In fact, the visitors stunned Anfield when John Devine put them ahead in the 24th minute after a left wing break by Dennis van Wyk.

Six minutes later Liverpool levelled when Ian Rush headed home a cross from Alan Kennedy. It was his 47th goal of the season.

Hungary pulls out of Los Angeles Olympics

BUDAPEST (R) — The Hungarian National Olympic Committee Wednesday announced its withdrawal from the Olympic Games at Los Angeles along with its East bloc allies.

With Hungary now out, the only Soviet bloc countries still to declare their Olympic intentions are Poland and Romania. The others have already withdrawn.

"The Hungarian Olympic committee considers that the present conditions in the organisation of the Summer Olympics do not allow Hungarian athletes to participate in the games," according to the statement issued by Hungarian official media.

The committee "shares the concern of the respective Olympic committees of the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries and declares its solidarity with them," the statement said.

The withdrawal was tinged with irony, being announced one day after Hungary took the individual

and team titles at an international pentathlon event here with a prowess that showed its squad could have won two pentathlon golds at Los Angeles.

Western diplomatic sources said the Hungarian statement was milder than the withdrawal announcements of its allies and showed the decision had been taken more out of solidarity than out of the fear of specific dangers to their own athletes.

"The Olympic committees of the Socialist countries have advocated the need to assert ideals of peace and friendship and to put an end to the propaganda campaign against Socialist countries and to guarantee the undisturbed participation of all concerned," the Hungarian committee said.

"There continues to be no adequate guarantee for security of athletes from all countries and the undisturbed holding of competitions."

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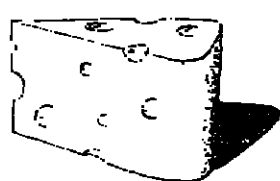
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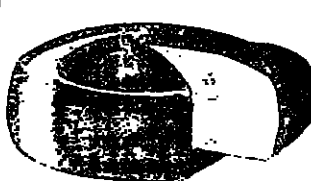
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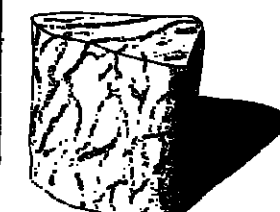
Paul Cézanne (1839-1906)



Victor Hugo (1802-1885)



Louis Pasteur (1822-1895)



Blaise Pascal (1623-1662)



Charles de Gaulle (1890-1969)

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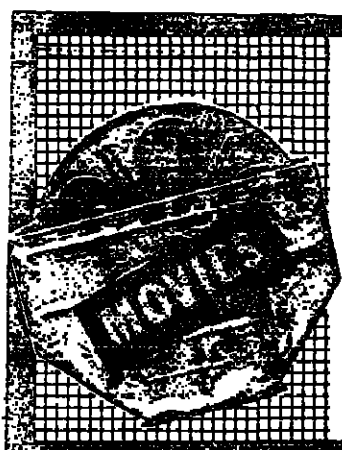
are nearly 400 kinds of cheese made from the milk of cows, goats or sheep. Many of them such as Camembert, Brie and Roquefort, are so magnificent that France's reputation could well stand on these examples alone. Every cheese has its own distinctive regional character and flavour, traditions and ingredients but the only way to understand the differences between French cheeses is to taste them.

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Cinema Tel: 30126
BASMAN

DISCO KARATE
(Colour)

"Indian Film"
Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema Tel: 22117
PALESTINE

1- SAAS
"Indian film"

2- RETURN TO ROOM 36
(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema Tel: 22198
RAGHADAN

JABBAR
(Colour)

"Indian Film"
Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudis to raise oil supply to Taiwan

TAIPEI (R) — Saudi Arabia has agreed to increase direct oil sales to Taiwan from 50,000 to 60,000 barrels per day starting July 1, the Chinese Petroleum Corp (CPC) announced Tuesday. A CPC spokesman told Reuters that Taiwan's purchases of Saudi oil through American oil firms would remain at 95,000 barrels per day, bringing Taiwan's total imports of Saudi crude to 155,000 barrels per day, nearly half its total oil imports. Taiwan also buys oil from Kuwait, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Gabon, United Arab Emirates and Ecuador, the spokesman added.

Brazilian company wins bid in Iraq

BELO HORIZONTE, Brazil (AP) — The Brazilian construction company Mendes Junior has won a \$330 million bid to build bridges and a tunnel in Iraq, the company said Tuesday. The contract, to be signed later in the week, calls for the construction of nine bridges over the Euphrates River in central Iraq, spokesman Ricardo Gomes Leite said. The company also will build a tunnel under the river and deepen 37 kilometres of canals. Mendes Junior, Brazil's fourth-largest construction company, already has built highways and railroads in Iraq.

EC to hold talks with N. Yemen

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The European Community EC Tuesday decided to open negotiations with North Yemen on a co-operation agreement. The decision was made by foreign ministers of the EC countries who ended their monthly two-day meeting here. They instructed the European commission to start talks with North Yemen. The official communiqué said the trade and economic co-operation agreement will be non-preferential, revolutionary and also include development aid.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed selectively higher in moderate volume and at 1500 the FT-SE 100 index rose 9.3 to 1,103.9 and the FT-SE 30 share index was unchanged at 878.0.

Government bonds firmed up to half a point in response to the higher trend in U.S. credit markets Tuesday. The uptrend prompted demand for official supplies of the 50 sup part paid short "tap" stock which was offered at 47 1/2 pct, dealers said.

Thom EMI fell 18p more to 564 still on the merger talks with British Aerospace, up 6p at 328 after 336. Gold shares and North Americans firmed.

The air attack on a Saudi super tanker prompted fresh demand for oil. Btiff at 255 and B.P. at 513 were each up 17p and Shell rose 14p to 665 ahead of Thursday's interim results.

Commercial Union was 9p up at 217 having touched 221 after a smaller than expected first quarter loss. Other insurances moved up, partly on speculation Allianz Versicherungs AG will now look at British firms having withdrawn from the proposed purchase of ARMCO's insurances interests. Phoenix, a long time takeover favourite, rose 21p to 451.

Banks rose up to 8p helped by news of the \$4.5 billion standby credit facility for Continental Illinois.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.3955/65	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2916/19	Canadian dollars
	2.7355/65	West German marks
	3.0790/0800	Dutch guilders
	2.2600/10	Swiss francs
	55.66/69	Belgian francs
	8.4025/75	French francs
	1686.25/1687.25	Italian lire
	231.25/35	Japanese yen
	8.0420/70	Swedish crowns
	7.7920/70	Norwegian crowns
	10.0000/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	374.80/375.30	U.S. dollars

U.S. industrial output up in April

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. industrial production rose sharply by 1.4 per cent in April, nearly triple the previous month's increase, the Federal Reserve Board (central bank) said Tuesday in a report indicating the economy is speeding ahead.

The April increase followed gains of 1.5 per cent in January and one per cent in February. The March rise of 0.5 per cent was restrained by poor weather.

Last month's strong performance by the nation's factories, utilities and mines added to concern about rising interest rates and the chances for keeping inflation under control.

Interest rates have been rising for several months, reflecting the pace of economic growth. Last week, major U.S. banks lifted their prime rates — the leading rates for their best corporate customers — by a half point to 12.5 per cent, the third boost in less than two months.

While there was no evidence so far that inflation is flaring up, economists and Wall Street investors are worried about what lies ahead if the pace of economic growth registered in the first three months of this year continues.

Union strikes spread to Mercedes-Benz factory

STUTTGART, West Germany (AP) — A strike by West German Metalworkers spread Wednesday to the Mercedes-Benz factory in Stuttgart, where the local union called out 32,000 workers starting at midnight to press demands for a 35-hour work week.

Mr. Manfred Dautel, spokesman for IG Metall in Stuttgart, said the strike began Wednesday morning when the early shift did not return to the plant.

IG Metall's national headquarters in Frankfurt cautioned, however, that the strike could not officially begin until the Union Board approved the action.

Daimler-Benz, meanwhile, announced major cutbacks in production starting Thursday at the Sindelfingen Car Plant and the truck assembly lines at Woerth Am Rhein because "of missing supplies as a result of the strike in the metal industry."

The statement said that assembly lines would be stopped early Thursday, affecting 20,000 workers at Sindelfingen and 4,100 at the truck plant.

In addition, the company said that 7,300 workers at the car plant in Untertuerkheim, in suburban Stuttgart, and 5,000 workers at the car plant in Bremen would be idled later Thursday, also because of parts supply problems.

Chinese minister predicts steady growth this year

PEKING (R) — China should see another year of steady growth in 1984 but key economic areas will remain tight and government expenditures must be closely watched, China's top planning and finance ministers said Wednesday.

Finance Minister Wang Bingqian and State Planning Commission Chief Song Ping gave detailed addresses on the progress of the economy to the annual meeting of the National People's Congress (NPC), in the Great Hall of the People.

Mr. Song told the NPC, the country's essentially rubber-stamp legislature, that agricultural production was set to rise five per cent this year and industrial output by four per cent.

He added that some quotas in the 1984 plan were rather low, however, and could be surpassed. China broke the targets for its 1981-85 five-year plan last year, two years ahead of schedule.

But Mr. Song warned the NPC that improvement in economic results was still slow due to inefficiency, an inadequate infrastructure and tight energy supplies.

The state also faced financial

difficulties, which hindered it in carrying out essential construction projects, he said.

Finance Minister Wang followed Mr. Song with a report on the final state accounts for 1983 and the draft budget for this year.

Last year was marked by a 4.35 billion yuan (\$2.18 billion) budget deficit, 1.35 billion (\$0.7 billion) over target, he said.

Mr. Wang said the deficit had been caused largely by last year's bumper harvests, which meant the state was forced to spend more money than it had expected on domestic purchases of grain and cotton.

He predicted the 1984 budget deficit would reach three billion yuan (\$1.5 billion) with revenues rising 6.7 per cent to 133.85 billion yuan (\$66 billion) and expenditure increasing 5.8 per cent to 136.85 billion (\$67.5 billion).

A disappointing aspect was earnings from enterprises which fell

well short of budgeted targets because they failed to cut production costs and increase profits, the said.

This had contributed to the government's financial embarrassment, Mr. Wang said.

He added that state revenues still did not account for a large enough proportion of national income — in other words, China is producing faster than it is handing over money to the government.

China spent 17.71 billion yuan (\$8.8 billion) for defence last year, he said, just less than the amount budgeted.

Defence spending has been given the lowest priority, with agriculture, industry and science all rating above it.

But Mr. Wang said that defence spending would increase slightly next year.

Mr. Song said total exports and imports this year would fall 5.1 per cent to 81.06 billion yuan (\$40.5 billion) but he gave no reason for the predicted reversal.

If no major natural disasters occurred this year the industrial and agricultural targets would be passed and the state budget would show better results than planned, Mr. Wang said.

U.S. rate rise hits poor countries

WASHINGTON (AP) — Poor countries will owe at least \$1.25 billion more to banks this year because of the rise in the U.S. prime rate of interest last week from 12 to 12.5 per cent, the World Bank estimates.

A.W. Clausen, the bank's president, has put the total foreign debt at \$810 billion. Many economists doubt it can ever be repaid. The interest rate on much of this debt varies with the money market.

The new figure comes shortly before a major conference in Paris where high U.S. interest rates are again expected to be the subject of heavy criticism.

Treasury Secretary Donald Regan will head the U.S. delegation to the two-day annual meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) which opens Thursday.

OECD's 24 members include

West Germany, Japan, Britain and the other major industrial countries of the non-Communist world. Many of their leaders blame U.S. policies for high interest rates.

Critics argue that the large U.S. federal deficit requires the U.S. government to borrow so much money that interest rates — the price of borrowed money — are forced up.

The meeting will be followed early next month in London by the annual economic summit of seven leading industrial countries.

The latest increase in interest rates has revived worry about its effects on debtor nations, especially after a warning from President Raul Alfonsín of Argentina that it endangers "social peace" in his country.

Argentina has \$44 billion in debt.

Last month 54 people died in rioting in the Dominican Republic brought on by food price in-

creases. The increases were decreed by the Dominican government in an effort to improve its financial situation and satisfy the International Monetary Fund.

Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, has \$20-billion debt. It recently had to get terms from its creditors to delay overdue payments of \$3 billion. On Dec. 31, the army ousted an elected civilian government and accused its leaders of financial corruption.

"The 'debt bomb' ... continues to tick loudly despite good adjustment in some countries and the pickup in world economic growth, and is jeopardised particularly by the renewed rise in U.S. interest rates and continuing onset of new trade restrictions," C. Fred Bergsten, former assistant secretary of state for international affairs told the joint economic committee of Congress this week.

food and other subsidies.

But economics professor Eytan Sheshinski said in a radio interview that the main reason for the jump in the April index was the sharp increase in the money supply in the last few months.

The government has been forced to pour billions of shekels into the economy as the public redeemed government bonds and savings schemes without re-investing its money in new savings.

The statistical office announced on Monday that the balance of trade deficit for the first four months of 1984 was \$832 million, a 21 per cent fall compared with January — April 1983.

Israeli cost of living rises 20 per cent

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's cost of living index rose 20.6 per cent in April, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced on Tuesday.

The rise in the price index during the last 12 months was 263 per cent.

It indicated a major increase in the inflation rate since the beginning of the year: Prices rose by 191 per cent in 1983.

The increase was the second highest in any month in the country's history, and the highest April figure.

Economic commentators are predicting that inflation will rise to 300 per cent or more by the end of this year.

The price rise in March was 10.7 per cent, and 13.3 per cent in April 1983.

Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad said the jump in the rate of inflation was partly because April traditionally showed a steep increase in prices. But he said the change in government policy since last October had also contributed to the steeply rising prices.

Mr. Cohen-Orgad decided after becoming finance minister in October that his first priority should be to fight Israel's climbing balance of payments deficit rather than inflation, and cut government spending, particularly on

Soviet oil output falls

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet oil production dropped marginally in the first four months of 1984 and has now fallen below target every month since September, official figures published Wednesday show.

The figures, issued by the Central Statistics Office and published in the weekly Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta, showed output in the four-month period was unchanged at 204 million tonnes.

But Western economic experts said the figure was rounded up, since the percentage given showed the oil sector produced 99.9 per cent of last year's output.

Recent reports have blamed the oil industry's problems on growing difficulties in extracting oil from western Siberia, but the newspaper said it had failed to reach its target because mechanisation and repair of existing wells was slow. It had also fallen behind in putting new deposits into operation, it said.

Natural gas output was up nine per cent from January-April 1983 at 194 billion cubic metres.

U.K. miners' wives arrested

LONDON (R) — Police Wednesday made their first arrests of women on picket lines at coal mines still working despite the two-month-old strike by most of Britain's 180,000 miners.

The 14 wives of striking miners were arrested in central England included Anne Scargill, wife of Arthur Scargill, Marxist President of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM). He has been urging miners' wives to join the campaign.

No charges against the 14 women were made immediately. Police in Nottinghamshire, where NUM members still work, are centred, reported arrested in one place in central England included Anne Scargill, wife of Arthur Scargill, Marxist President of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM). He has been urging miners' wives to join the campaign.

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YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime finds you eager to make some interesting changes and you also have the opportunity to arrange matters at a distance or with those very different from yourself.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Morning is ideal for finding ways to advance and expand, and later discuss plans with allies. Study your worldly status.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get into monetary affairs with others early and settle them to your satisfaction. Try to please mate.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Talk over with partners your mutual principles and policies early and later you can put them in practice.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Find a more efficient way of handling your regular work and gain more benefits in the future.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You understand what should be done to get your creativity working more profitably in the future. Then get right to work on it.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Handle home situation cleverly and have more happiness there in the future. Know what it is your mate wants.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You have good ideas for being more productive in routine work and should state them to higher-ups. Then later put them in operation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Study that plan for a better future financially and later get in touch with experts who can assist you with it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get ideas worked out so that you can advance more easily since they are very good. Show affection to kin.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Daytime is fine for planning what you want to gain in the weeks ahead. Then state your aims to those who can assist you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Discuss your plans for the future with close ties and good friends and gain their cooperation.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Know what it is you truly want during the day and know how much you have progressed in the outside world toward your goals.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be one who early in life will know which profession is best to follow and should be encouraged to follow inclinations, which are quite intelligent. In maturity, your progeny will begin a campaign of success that will last throughout the lifetime.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is not only a good day to see influential persons and get them to back whatever project you have but also to improve your health. Your judgment is more radiant than usual.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A fine day for you to handle worldly affairs that are important to your welfare, so be practical and efficient.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You have fine practical ideas and should put them in operation quickly, and not sweep them under the rug.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Plan time to talk over dealings with others so that a fine accord is reached and both sides are satisfied.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Talk over with an expert how best you can carry through with any agreements you have made. Be more practical.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Persevere at that work ahead of you and it can bring in fine benefits. Delight your mate with a nice bouquet of flowers tonight.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Plan the recreations that most appeal to you and then you can enjoy them with good friends. Avoid a troublemaker.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Plan the weekend well so that you and your family are happier and then improve conditions at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Ideal day to communicate well with others, especially in business matters. Visit out-of-town guests.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Finances are pretty much on your mind and this is good since you know just how to become more prosperous.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A fine day to consider your own needs and wants and go after them in a positive fashion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Privately get into practical matters and make progress and forget all that daydreaming for awhile.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) See that good and practical-minded friend for the assistance you need to gain your fondest aims.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be one who can easily gain the favor of bigwigs since there will be an intuitive tuning in to their practical needs and will try to please them. Teach to not bully anyone. This could be a most prosperous and successful life.

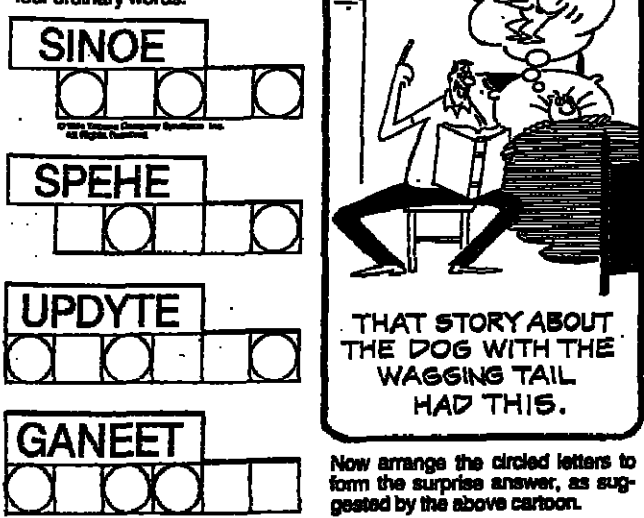
"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: COLIC QUOTA OUTLAW FLURRY

Answer: The pondoller may be serenading you, but he's ready for this — A "ROW"

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Costa Rica, Nicaragua sign border agreement

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — The foreign ministers of Costa Rica and Nicaragua signed a six-point agreement Tuesday night aimed at lessening tension and armed conflict on their common border.

Following a day-long meeting sponsored by the four-nation Contadora group, Foreign Ministers Miguel D'Escoto of Nicaragua and Jose Gutierrez of Costa Rica, agreed on a joint "commission of supervision and prevention" for border inspections.

The commission also would recommend solutions to problems between the two countries, and would include representatives from Costa Rica, Nicaragua and from each of the four Contadora countries — Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama.

"This means the creation of a new mechanism to try to solve border problems that have been causing friction between Costa Rica and Nicaragua," Mr. Gutierrez said. "I hope that we can avoid further tensions."

"This whole concept of solving

Central America's problems through Contadora is enhanced, is strengthened by this agreement," he said.

Rebels trying to topple the Sandinista government in Nicaragua have operated from Costa Rica. As a spillover from those hostilities, there have been sporadic clashes between Nicaraguan soldiers and Costa Rican border guards.

Relations between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, which tries to maintain a position of unarmed neutrality, have deteriorated seriously in recent weeks.

Mr. Gutierrez said the agreement would not affect Costa Rica's recent request for military aid from the United States, which he said does not reflect a desire to take up arms against Nicaragua.

"We have no army," he said, "and we only asked for small arms

for our police forces."

Mr. D'Escoto accused the United States of creating tensions between Costa Rica and Nicaragua "through the utilisation of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in Costa Rican territory." Costa Rica has denied previous accusations that the CIA has influence in the country.

The administration of President Ronald Reagan wants Costa Rica to take a more militant stand in its relations with Nicaragua, and recently offered the government a multimillion-dollar military aid package.

Costa Rica has said it was to provide better arms and equipment for its border police force. "I hope that through this agreement the Reagan administration will get the point," Mr. D'Escoto said. "Costa Rica and Nicaragua do not want to have difficulties with one another."

The Contadora Group has been trying since January 1983 to come up with peaceful solutions to conflicts in Central America.



A Soviet Oscar-class missile submarine is caught on the surface of the sea recently by a Norwegian surveillance aircraft. This photo provides the best view yet obtained of this new Soviet submarine (AP wire photo).

Soviet carrier ends manoeuvres

WASHINGTON (AP) — The helicopter carrier Leningrad, biggest Soviet warship ever to operate in the Caribbean, apparently is heading homeward after seven weeks of manoeuvres with the Cuban Navy and visits to Cuban ports, defence officials said Tuesday.

The 20,000-ton Leningrad is accompanied by an advanced, 8,000-ton guided-missile destroyer, a diesel-powered submarine and a tanker, said the officials, who spoke only on condition that they not be identified.

At last report, the Soviet squadron, whose appearance in the Caribbean in March caused U.S. authorities some concern, was in the mid-Atlantic apparently headed for the Mediterranean. Navy officials believe the Leningrad squadron is returning to its Black Sea home waters.

Soviet warships have been visiting Cuba periodically since 1969, but rarely have they drawn the attention focused by the United States on the arrival of the Leningrad and its accompanying ships in the Caribbean on March

25. Defence Department Spokesman Michael Burch said that the appearance of the squadron "shows the importance of the Soviet Union places on the region."

While the Leningrad was in the Caribbean, U.S. sea, ground and air units staged a major exercise called Ocean Venture.

The Leningrad Squadron engaged in anti-submarine warfare manoeuvres with ships of the Cuban Navy in the Gulf of Mexico, in tandem with anti-submarine warfare exercises involving the Soviet Bear bombers which fly out of Cuba from time to time, the sources said.

The Ocean Venture exercise ended about a week before the Leningrad squadron left Havana last Friday.

New photo of submarine

In London Jane's Defence weekly on Tuesday published a photograph of one of the Soviet navy's new Oscar-class missile-firing nuclear submarines seen by a Norwegian surveillance aircraft

in the Barents sea off northern Norway.

The photograph, the most detailed yet obtained of the giant 14,000-ton Oscars, clearly shows six hatches on either side of the conning tower for the boat's 24 SS-N-19 anti-ship missiles and what naval specialists believe is a towed sonar system.

The Oscar is the most advanced attack sub in the Soviet Navy. In addition to the one that is operational, more are believed to be in production at Severodvinsk, near Archangel on the White Sea near the Finnish border. Jane's said.

The magazine, printed by the authoritative Jane's Publications, noted in a separate article that Soviet submarines plaguing Sweden's coastline in recent years have "outmanoeuvred" the Swedes' defence systems through "superior technology."

The British Defence Ministry noted that the Soviets' burgeoning submarine fleet — 361 at the last Western count — constitutes "the greatest threat" to NATO in the Eastern Atlantic.

Bush, Zia begin talks

MURREE, Pakistan (R) — U.S. Vice President George Bush and Pakistan's President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq met in this hill resort Wednesday for talks likely to focus mainly on the war in neighbouring Afghanistan.

There was no formal agenda for the talks, expected to last several hours. But Pakistani officials said other issues such as the Iran-Iraq war, the Middle East and East-West relations were also likely topics.

Mr. Bush gave Gen. Zia a letter from President Reagan as the two met in the president's mountain top villa in the British-built hill station 40 kilometres northeast of Islamabad, the officials said. The contents of the letter were not disclosed.

Mr. Bush hinted Tuesday he might bring up domestic issues when he told reporters in New Delhi that Washington was using its dialogue with Islamabad to encourage a return to democracy in Pakistan.

Gen. Zia, who took power in a 1977 coup, has promised elections by next March but the banned political opposition charges the polls will only prolong army rule. Last week Gen. Zia cracked down on all political reporting in the press.

Mr. Bush and his aides will be talking to Gen. Zia, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Vice-Chief of army Staff General K.M. Arif.

On his arrival from India Tuesday, Mr. Bush said Washington wanted "a strong, stable and independent Pakistan at peace with its neighbours."

He said the United States, which extended Islamabad a \$3.2 billion arms-and-aid package after the 1979 Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, had an enduring commitment to stability in South Asia.

COLUMN

Pope donates bullet to shrine

FATIMA, Portugal (R) — Pope John Paul has donated the bullet that injured him in Rome in May 1981 to the Roman Catholic Sanctuary at Fatima, a sanctuary spokesman said Tuesday. The spokesman said the Pope, who was shot and seriously injured by Turkish gunman Mehmet Ali Agca in St. Peter's Square, on May 13, 1981, gave the bullet to the Bishop of Leiria and Fatima during a pilgrimage to Rome. The Pope said after he was shot that his recovery was due to the Madonna of Fatima whom the Catholic Church believes appeared to children in a field in Fatima on May 13, 1917. The bullet will be put on show in a museum being built to house Fatima relics.

Priest wins \$195,000 prize

LONDON (R) — An English clergyman who founded a "listening post" to monitor religious persecution in the Soviet Bloc was awarded a \$195,000 prize Tuesday for furthering progress in religion. Anglican priest Michael Bourdeaux received the Templeton Prize, the world's biggest annual cash award, from Queen Elizabeth's husband Prince Philip at a private ceremony in Buckingham Palace, which has been described as a Nobel Prize for Religion, is funded by a foundation set up by American-born banker John Templeton, a leading Presbyterian layman. Bourdeaux, 50, set up a centre for the study of religion and Communism in 1969, aiming to monitor persecution and publicise it in the West. Since 1974 it has been based at Keston College in Kent, southeast England.

Housewife wins \$5.5m

NEW YORK (R) — An impoverished Ecuadorian immigrant who lives with her husband and four children in the south Bronx Tuesday became New York's latest millionaire. Mrs. Braulia Meneses, 33, who speaks no English, came forward Tuesday as the fourth and final winner of last week's record \$22.1-million New York State Lottery, the largest lottery in North American history. Mrs. Meneses said through a translator that she waited a day to claim her winnings because "I was too nervous and wanted to calm down." Her husband, Sixto Arauz, 47, said he would quit his job as a mechanic because "now I am the boss. I don't work." The other winners in the lottery were a manicurist, a hospital maid and a machinist. All said they, too were quitting their jobs.

Child pornographer gets 4 years

LOS ANGELES (R) — A 43-year-old grandmother, alleged by police to have run the biggest child pornography ring in U.S. history, was sentenced Tuesday to four years imprisonment. Mrs. Cathy Wilson had pleaded guilty to distributing child pornography. The mother of five children was alleged by police to have headed a \$500,000-a-year mail order business which dealt in films such as "Little but Lewd" and "Randy Lolitas" and in pornographic magazines. She lived in the exclusive Los Angeles suburb of Hancock Park, kept a Rolls-Royce and a Mercedes Benz in a fleet of cars, and her younger children attended an expensive private school.

Australian state passes gay reform

SYDNEY (R) — Rival groups traded insults outside the parliament of the Australian state of New South Wales Tuesday as it legislated homosexual acts between consenting men. About 100 members of a Gay Rights group and an equal number from church groups opposed to the reform carried banners and chanted slogans supporting their views. There was also uproar inside parliament, where opposition members described the ruling Labour Party's move for reform as "outrageous," "obnoxious" and "abhorrent." But the legislation was passed with the required two-thirds majority to make homosexual acts between consenting males over 18 years of age legal within the state. Sociologists say there is a large homosexual community among the three million people in the state capital, Sydney.

Mondale calls for C. American talks

SAN FRANCISCO, California (AP) — Democratic presidential contender Walter Mondale branded President Ronald Reagan's Central American policy a failure Tuesday and called for immediate talks seeking withdrawal of all outside forces in the region.

"If Mr. Reagan wants a military solution, he will end up committing our country to direct military intervention," the former vice president said in a speech to the World Affairs Council.

Mr. Mondale demanded an end

to U.S. military exercises in the area, saying "Mr. Reagan's failed policies are leading us toward war in that region."

Mr. Mondale opened his speech with a comment on the National Assembly elections held in the Philippines on Monday. The candidate said it is impossible to know whether the elections were fair.

But he described Vice President George Bush's remark that Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos is "a friend of democracy" as

"an outrageous statement."

Mr. Mondale said, "I hope Mr. Reagan will press the Marcos regime for a speedy return to democratic government."

He also lashed out at Democratic rival Sen. Gary Hart as "unsteady and inconsistent" on foreign policy.

"Today, we have a president who shoots from the hip on foreign policy," Mr. Mondale said. "We don't need yet another one in 1984."

Sikh extremists to resume agitation

AMRITSAR, India (AP) — Police investigating a terrorist attack on a crowded movie theatre in a town south of here seized a cache of grenades and automatic weapons in a raid Tuesday on the office of an outlawed Sikh student group.

Authorities said police arrested nine suspected terrorists in the raid in Sriganaganagar, 325 kilometres south of Amritsar, in Rajasthan state.

The raid followed a grenade attack on a movie theatre in the town late Sunday in which three people were killed and 36 wounded.

Also on Tuesday, senior leaders of the Akali Dal, the main Sikh political party, met in the Golden Temple in this Sikh holy city to

discuss plans to resume agitation for greater political and religious autonomy in troubled Punjab state at the end of the month.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, meanwhile, drew fire from an eight-party national opposition coalition, who said the government had "lost the moral authority to rule" because of "its colossal failure" to halt terrorist violence in Punjab.

About 250 people have been killed in the northern Indian state in the past three months. In recent days, Sikh terrorists have been blamed in the deaths of 13 people.

In neighbouring Haryana, Hindus protesting the slaying of editor Ramesh Chander turned violent when police stopped an anti-government procession in Rohtak

in violation of a statewide ban on public assembly. Four policemen were injured by the rock-hurling crowd, officials said.

And in Jullundur city, where Mr. Chander was killed, authorities extended a curfew through Thursday to prevent further violence.

In a later development, officials said unidentified Sikh gunmen shot and wounded two policemen who had gone to a village in Amritsar district Tuesday night to visit relatives. The assailants escaped.

Six terrorists armed with rifles and pistols broke into a government office building in Punjab's Batala district early Wednesday and set fire to the building, reducing it to ashes, police said.

Jailed Solidarity leader stabs himself

WARSAW (R) — An imprisoned leader of the banned Solidarity labour movement has stabbed himself in the stomach in his cell and will spend eight to 10 days in hospital, a Polish prison administrator said Wednesday.

Piotr Bednarski, who was a member of the union's underground leadership before his capture in November 1982, wounded himself early on Monday morning at Barczewo Prison in northern Pol-

and, Col. Stanislaw Wrona said.

Mr. Bednarski's action followed accusations of maltreatment at Barczewo, where hunger strikes have been staged since December. The accusations were made by political prisoners in testimony at an open trial earlier this month, opposition sources said.

Opposition sources said Mr. Bednarski was one of nine convicted political prisoners at Barczewo who on May 5 and 12 accused jail

staff of brutality against them when called to testify at a trial of one of their number, Wladyslaw Frasyniuk.

Mr. Frasyniuk, once Mr. Bednarski's superior in the former Solidarity stronghold of Wroclaw, south-western Poland, was convicted of offences against prison regulations. He was given a 10-month sentence in addition to his three-year term.

Cameroun releases 200 detainees

YAOUNDE (R) — Camerounian authorities have released more than 200 people held since last month's coup attempt against President Paul Biya, official sources said Tuesday.

Most of them were freed in the last two days, they said. One official said he saw a security officer back at duty at the capital's airport after being set free Monday.

The government has said more than 1,000 people were arrested after loyal troops put down the uprising by dissident members of the Presidential Guard in which more than 70 people were killed.

Among those arrested after the April 6 and 7 uprising were some civilians suspected of links with the plotters. It was not immediately clear if any civilians were among those released.

It was also not clear whether those set free had been cleared by a special inquiry commission or whether their release meant the permanent military court in Yaounde had started trying those implicated in the plot.

Mr. Biya set up the inquiry commission last month to establish the involvement or innocence of those arrested.

U.S., Mexico differ over C. America

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan and his Mexican counterpart Miguel de la Madrid openly differed over Central American policy Tuesday.

Mr. Reagan blamed totalitarian outsiders for pouring gasoline on a neighbourhood fire, while his Mexican guest urged rejection of "interventionist solutions of any kind."

During a formal welcoming ceremony for Mr. De la Madrid on the south lawn of the White House, Mr. Reagan acknowledged that the United States and Mexico disagree about how to deal with the turmoil in Central America. But he said they differ "not on goals or principles (but) on the means by which to achieve our goals."

Mr. De la Madrid, whose nation is part of the Contadora Group trying to secure a regional peace treaty for Central America, warned that "the risk of a generalised war, the scope and duration of which no one can foresee, is growing."

"Every country on the continent must do its utmost to restore peace and avoid war by respecting and upholding the sovereignty of its people to decide their own destiny and by rejecting interventionist solutions of any kind," the Mexican President said, speaking through an interpreter.

He avoided any specific mention of U.S. involvement in the region, however, either in the form of economic and military support for the Salvadoran government or in covert operations against the Sandinist government in Nicaragua.

The disagreements between the two countries over Central America have not been debated openly, but Mexican and American officials have accused each other privately of feeding conflict in the region. The two countries have been supporting opposite sides in the civil wars in both Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Mr. Reagan laid the blame for what he called the conflagration in Central America squarely at the feet of "a totalitarian coalition which has undermined what we had hoped would be a democratic revolution." The Reagan administration says Soviet-backed Nicaragua is exporting revolution to its neighbours.

"Like a fire in one's neighbourhood, this threat should be of concern to every nation in the hemisphere," Mr. Reagan said, adding that the totalitarian countries "have been pouring gasoline onto the fire by pumping massive supplies of weapons into Central America and encouraging tyranny and aggression."

He expressed appreciation for the Contadora Group's efforts to write a peace treaty for the region and said he hoped their 21-point list of objectives could translate into verifiable treaty provisions.

Mr. De la Madrid, mentioning his own and the Contadora Group's goals, said: "Let us apply the principles and rules of international law established by the countries of the American continent: Self-determination, non-intervention, equality of states before the law, peaceful solution of conflicts and international co-operation for development."

Most are supporters of Kim Dae-Jung, who is now living in the United States after being freed in 1982 from a 20-year jail term for sedition.

Their statement, read by the Rev. Moon Ik-Hwan who staged a 19-day hunger strike last year to call for democracy, urged South Koreans not to take part in the elections unless the demands are met.

Parliamentary elections are expected late this year or early next.

The statement urged people not to watch programmes of the state-run Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) in protest against what it called distorted reporting of dissident activities.

It accused the United States and Japan of supporting the "dictatorial" military government in Seoul.

The government has lifted a ban on political activity for about 200 politicians and dissidents this year but it still remains on 99 others.

Those still affected by the eight-year ban, due to end in 1988, include Kim Dae-Jung and former opposition leader Kim Young-Sam.

The Pentagon report said U.S. strategic forces had improved with the procurement of 18 B-1 bombers and 41 peacekeeper intercontinental ballistic missiles. The Trident 2 submarine-launched ballistic missile had entered full-scale development.

Aircraft production had been expanded by 1,320 new tactical warplanes funded between 1981 and 1984, giving a 75 per cent increase over 1980 inventories.

The navy had increased the number of deployable battle force ships from 479 in 1980 to 525, while the army had been allocated more tanks and other armour, rockets and attack helicopters. The marines had added more armour and missiles.

U.S. combat readiness had actually declined under Mr. Reagan.

The Pentagon responded Tuesday that such assertions were a "diservice to American servicemen and servicewomen and the nation they are pledged to defend."

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Pentagon says U.S. fighting ability improved

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's arms build up has substantially improved the ability of U.S. Armed Forces to fight a war, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

It said in a statement released to counter criticism that rapidly rising defence spending had brought little improvement in capability that all branches of the military had more and better equipment and personnel than when Mr. Reagan assumed office in 1981.

But the Pentagon said it still had some way to go before it was fully satisfied and would continue to seek more money.

"This substantial improvement does not mean we can rest comfortably on progress to date," it said. "There is still room for improvement."

Deputy Defence Secretary William Taft told a news conference at which the statement was released: "The improvement is fragile. Inadequate funding can undo the progress made. We need to do more."

He said the military still needed

more spare parts and munitions and better pay for its men.

The administration originally requested \$305 billion for defence in financial year 1985, up 13 per cent over the current year taking inflation into account.

But it pared the figure back by \$14 billion in the face of congressional concern over the size of the federal budget deficit.

Mr. Taft said the cut unquestionably would have an impact on U.S. fighting capability. Some programmes would have to be postponed and others delayed, he said.

But asked if the United States was ready to fight a major war today, he replied: "We are ready to do the mission we are asked to do and with the forces at hand."

Administration critics have accused Mr. Reagan of spending too much on expensive new weapons and not enough on making units ready for combat. Thomas O'Neill, the Democrat who is speaker of the House of Representatives, said in March that

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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BEING HYPERACTIVE CAN BE DANGEROUS

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 3 2
♥ A K Q 5
♦ A J 9 4
♣ 6

WEST
♠ Q 10 4
♥ 9 7 6
♦ 10 5
♣ K Q J 9 3

SOUTH
♠ K 9 7 6 5
♥ 4
♦ Q 8 3 2
♣ A 10 4

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass Pass Pass 1 ♠
2 ♥ 2 ♠ 4 ♠ 4 ♥
Pass 4 NT Pass 5 ♠
Pass 5 NT Pass 6 ♠
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

The United States defeated Italy by the narrowest of margins in the 1983 World Team Championship, played in Stockholm. Slams played a key role in the outcome. This one went in favor of Italy.

In one room, the Italians stayed out of the auction, and the Americans reached six spades. Declarer took the percentage play in the trump

suit and, when the queen did not drop and the diamond finesse lost, South went down one.

The auction shown took place in the room where Italy

sat North-South. North's one club opening bid was artificial and strong. With the vulnerability in his favor, East decided on a sub-standard jump overall of two hearts, showing a heart-club two-suiter. That did not keep the Italians from reaching the spade slam, but it did have unfortunate repercussions (for the Americans) in the play.

Declarer won the opening club lead with the ace and, since East was marked with at least nine cards in the suits he had promised and had little in the way of high cards for his action, declarer elected to play him for a singleton spade. So at trick two, he rashed the king of spades and then led a trump to the jack. When that held, the diamond finesse was only a matter of an overtrick.

The Italians gained 17 International Match Points on the hand and took a 23 IMP lead after only two boards of the 176-board final.

French president begins state visit to Sweden

STOCKHOLM (R) — President Francois Mitterrand of France arrived in Sweden Wednesday for a state visit and talks with government ministers expected to focus on East-West relations, Central America and economic affairs.

Officials said the question of a Nordic nuclear-free zone and a nuclear-free corridor in Central Europe were likely to figure prominently in talks between Mr. Mitterrand and Swedish Social Democratic Prime Minister Olof Palme, a strong advocate of both.

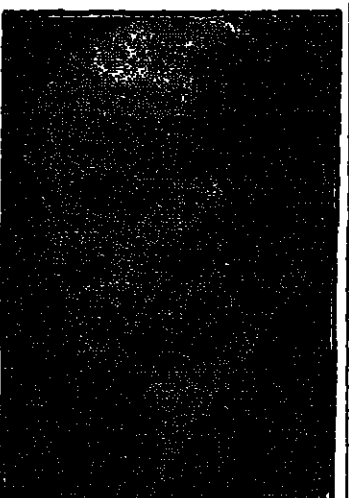
In a pre-visit Swedish television interview shown Tuesday night, the French Socialist president expressed sympathy with the idea of nuclear-free zones but said he doubted whether they were practicable in Europe.

Mr. Mitterrand and his wife Danielle, here for a two-day Norwegian visit, drove in a heavily-guarded motorcade to the Royal Palace for lunch with King Carl Gustav and Queen Sylvia.

For security reasons, he did not travel in the open horse-drawn carriage normally used by visiting heads of state.

With Mr. Mitterrand are External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson and Industry Minister Laurent Fabius. They will hold talks with their Swedish counterparts.

Mr. Mitterrand told Swedish journalists at the weekend that the purpose of his visit was to improve Franco-Swedish relations in all



Francois Mitterrand

fields as he considered them very underdeveloped.

The last French president to visit Sweden was Raymond Poincare in 1914.

Mr. Mitterrand's schedule for Wednesday included a visit to the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences before the first of several meetings with Mr. Palme.

There was a possibility of Mr. Mitterrand facing demonstrations by opponents of French South Pacific nuclear tests. On Monday the second such test in a week occurred at Mururoa Atoll.

Neutral Sweden has repeatedly urged a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests in general, though officials said France had never been singled out for criticism.

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